

Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 97

APRIL 6, 2008

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
With the rising cost of food, fuel, and utilities, are you still able to set aside a portion of your paycheck for savings?

Let your voice be heard!  
Go to  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)  
to cast your vote.

## INSIDE



### Minimalist Home

In an era defined by clutter, the home of Fette and Matthew Green is an ode to simple living.

**GOOD HOUSEKEEPING...**

Page 10



### Millionaires

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Clinton made nearly \$109 million since they left the White House.

**NATION...Page 17**



### Python Passenger

Manila commuters got a shock when they found an unwelcome passenger on their minibus—a python.

**ASIA...Page 18**

Old birth certificates still being accepted. **PAGE 2**  
Torres chided for kid-glove treatment of NMC. **PAGE 5**

## US Senate to take up federalization bill next week

The Senate is poised to take up an omnibus public lands bill late next week, but it may duck a fight over a gun rights amendment one Republican wants to offer.

The package also includes legislation to apply federal immigration laws to the Northern Mariana Islands and give the commonwealth a non-voting House delegate.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., moved Friday to limit debate on a motion to proceed to the bill. The measure combines dozens of measures that have

passed the House and been approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

See **FEDERALIZATION** on Page 4

## KYUNGSEUNG TO SHUT DOWN NEXT MONTH

# 144 to become jobless soon

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

A total of 144 factory workers will become jobless next month when another garment manufacturer, Kyungseung (Saipan) Inc., shuts down operation.

Labor investigator Carlos Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday that the closure of Kyungseung effective May 24 would affect 141 alien workers and 13 resident workers.

Camacho said they are now doing a survey as to who among the 141 foreign workers are either going back to their home countries or will be staying to look for other employers.

See **ANOTHER** on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

### SAVING LIVES

Lanie Dela Cruz of G4S Security and other participants perform adult CPR during the "Super CPR Saturday" training hosted by the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa yesterday morning. The event was designed to give participants the confidence to respond in an emergency situation with skills that can save a life. See story on Page 4.

## UNEASY ECONOMY

# US shoppers face reality of mounting food prices

By **ALAN SCHER ZAGIER**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**ST. LOUIS (AP)**—Steadily rising food costs aren't just causing U.S. grocery shoppers to do a double-take at the checkout line—they're also changing the very ways they feed their families.

The worst case of food inflation in nearly 20 years has more Americans giving up restaurant meals to eat at home. They are buying fewer luxury food items, eating more leftovers and buying more store brands instead of name-brand items.

See **RISING** on Page 4



AP

A shopper takes her son along for the ride while shopping at the Heinen's grocery store in Bainbridge Twp., Ohio in this Dec. 13, 2007 file photo.

## Soccer game turns ugly

Police arrested on Thursday a member of a Korean soccer team for allegedly beating up one of the spectators in a soccer game at the Ada field in Susupe last month.

Jin Wook Cho, 32, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. A \$2,000 cash bail was initially imposed for his temporary liberty.

Jin Wook Cho's brother, Jin Koo Cho, who was also tagged as a suspect, was arrested at the scene, police said.

See **2 BROTHERS** on Page 4



# Around the CNMI

## Old birth certificates still being accepted

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Since the Department of Public Health Vital Statistics Office was put in charge of issuing the new birth certificates and charging community residents \$50 to obtain an original copy,

residents have been wondering if government agencies are still accepting the old ones.

Brigitte Camacho of the Social Security Administration said that they are still accepting the older copies that used to be issued by the Clerk of Court.

"As long they have the red or

embossed seal, we still accept them. But if you are applying for a social security card or a hospital blue card, you will need to bring your passport or license for verification," Camacho said.

Other government agencies such as Medicaid, Nutrition Assistance Program, the Pub-

lic School System, and the U.S. Passport Office all still accept the older birth certificates as long as the certificates are the original ones.

Camacho said that the Social Security Administration would continue to accept them as long as they are valid.

Under the new rate schedule for medical fees, birth certificates now cost \$50 and death certificates now cost \$30 at the DPH Vital Statistics Office.

A statement from the Depart-

ment of Public Health stated that, "It is necessary to enact these [changes] in order to correct the current improper rate structure and provide adequate revenues for continued health services."

## Security Title's Young wins business award

**GUAM**—Security Title Inc. president Kim Anderson Young was selected as the 2008 Guam Business Person of the Year.

Previously nominated for the 2006 Guam Businesswoman of the Year, Young has over 20 years of industry experience.

"While I am extremely honored to receive this prestigious award, I also realize that it could not have happened without all of the hard work and support from the Security Title staff in Guam and the CNMI," said Young. "This award is truly meant for all of us."

An Alaska Business College graduate, Young obtained her real estate sales and brokers licenses in Alaska, as well as a real estate brokers license in Maui, Hawaii.

In 1987, Young moved to Saipan, where she started Blue Pacific Helicopters. She sold the company to Northwest Airlink in 1989 before returning to the title and escrow business, where she opened Security Title in 1996.

In 1999, Young moved with her family to Guam, where she started Security Title, Inc.

Strongly committed to Guam's community and to corporate citizenship, Young and Security Title, Inc. have contributed up to 10 percent of yearly corporate profits to charitable organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross and other organizations that support the islands education and military population. (PR)

## Worker's wage claim denied

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas has affirmed the Labor administrative hearing officer's decision to deny an alien worker's claim for wages during a period when he did not work after being injured in a fight with a co-worker.

San Nicolas ruled that the evidence cited by then administrative hearing officer and now Labor director Barry Hirshbein in Mohammed Ali Asraf's labor case against Misamis Construction Saipan Ltd., "is sufficient and the legal grounds on which the order is based are proper."

San Nicolas, however, reversed the hearing officer's awarding of \$525 in liquidated damages to Asraf.

"Liquidated damages are a surrogate for damages that cannot be accurately estimated or may be used by the Legislature to provide an incentive to employers to obey the law. Neither condition is present here," the Secretary said.

San Nicolas said that Asraf brought on his own damages by engaging in a fight and then

leaving his job, thus breaching his employment contract.

Labor records show that Asraf began working for Misamis Construction in 1999. He was renewed annually. Asraf's last renewal application was submitted on Aug. 25, 2005 and would have expired on Aug. 19, 2006. The renewal permit was not approved by CNMI Immigration.

On May 27, 2006, Asraf was injured during a fight with a co-worker. He did not return to work after that date.

Asraf filed the Labor complaint seeking reimbursement of \$36 in medical expenses; \$525 in unpaid wages; and payment of contract wages for the remainder of his unexpired contract.

Asraf also filed a workers' compensation claim for his injuries. He never submitted the medical expense to Misamis.

With respect to the unpaid wages in the amount of \$525, Misamis, through a representative, admitted that this amount was not paid.

The representative testified that he sought legal advice and was urged to claim an offset against wages for disputed medical expenses.

## Navy vessel docks on Saipan today

The USS *Curts*, a 453-foot guided missile frigate with 226 officers and crew, will arrive today, Sunday, April 6.

The *Curts* will depart Saipan on April 9.

"This is the *Curts*' first visit to Saipan, and because this is a part work, part relaxation stop

for only a couple days, we are tentatively planning to co-host with Chamber member organization VFW a reception for the sailors on Tuesday evening," said Chamber executive director Kyle Calabrese.

Final details will be issued soon.

### HOUSE SESSION

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, Rep. Christina M. Sablan, and Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider share a light moment during Wednesday's special House session on Capital Hill.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

# Europe Highlights



## Tour 2008

France, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy.

**June 14-29, 2008**

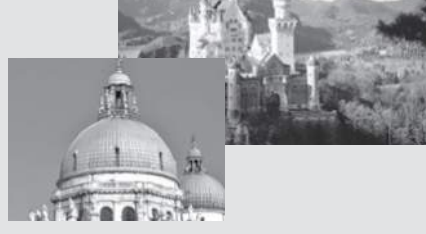
# \$3,485<sup>00</sup>

Twin sharing/per person

### Includes

- Economy class Manila-Europe-Manila
- Breakfast and Dinner throughout
- All hotel accommodation at 3-4 star hotels
- All tours mentioned with English speaking guides
- Transfer from Airport to hotel and vice versa
- Private long distance coach throughout Europe

Some restrictions apply.



For more information please call your travel agents, Lisa and Jie at (670) 235-3708 to 10 or e-mail us at customerservice@centurytravelagency.com  
www.centurytravelagency.com

## Century Travel

AGENCY, INC.

A TanHoldings Company  
Going the Extra Mile to Serve You!

Ground Floor CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan,  
PMB 193 Box 10000 PPP, Saipan MP 96950



## 100,000 tuna tagged in Pacific

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Pacific Tuna Tagging Program (Phase 1) has just passed a significant milestone: 100,000 tuna tagged since the project started in Papua New Guinea late in 2006.

"The success of Phase 1 of the tagging project has been an outstanding achievement, and full credit goes to our cruise leaders Tony Lewis, Bruno Leroy and David Itano, other regular cruise participants Brian Kumasi and Thomas Usu, and others who have participated in the

mon Islands following further funding availability. The six months of work in PNG resulted in more than 60,000 tag releases, approximately double the initial project target. The work was conducted from a chartered Solomon Islands pole-and-line vessel, Soltai 6.

For the final two weeks of the project, the larger and newer Soltai 105 was chartered to test its effectiveness for the longer-distance operations planned under Phase 2. This trial was a resounding success. Overall, more than 40,000 tuna were tagged in just two and a half months of fieldwork in the Solomons, bringing the total number of tag releases for PTP Phase 1 past the 100,000 level in just over eight months of field operations.

"The management and staff of Soltai and the officers and crew of Soltai 6 and Soltai 105 deserve huge credit for their professionalism and work ethic in making Phase 1 a great success," said Hampton.

"We at SPC are continuing to work hard to maximize the results of the work through promoting tag recovery from across the Pacific basin, and will soon begin the large job

of data analysis. We're also keenly looking forward to the Phase 2 tag release program, and to taking the project to other parts of the SPC region."

Phase 2, which is expected to begin in mid-2008, will extend the existing work north into Micronesia and west toward Indonesia and the Philippines. NZAID and the European Community have made major funding commitments to Phase 2, pledging approximately \$6 million of the \$10 million budget. (SPC)



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

Secretariat of the Pacific Community fisheries scientist Bruno Leroy, right, implants an electronic tag in a tuna for the Pacific Tuna Tagging Program.

field operations," said John Hampton, SPC Oceanic Fisheries program manager.

The Pacific Tuna Tagging Program is a large research project designed to provide new information on tuna movements, mortality and behavior. This information will result in more accurate assessments of the status of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks and the impacts of fishing on them.

Phase 1 was originally planned to focus on PNG, but was subsequently extended to Solo-

## L.A. court hearing set in Miura's extradition

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A court hearing is scheduled for later this month on a defense request to throw out the arrest warrant for a Japanese businessman charged with murdering his wife in the 1980s.

Kazuyoshi Miura was arrested February in the U.S. territory of Saipan, and authorities in Los Angeles authorities are seeking his extradition. The hearing has been set for April 23.

Miura was shot in the leg and

his wife was shot in the head in Los Angeles in 1981. Kazumi Miura, 28, died the following year in Japan. Los Angeles police initially accepted the man's story that they were shot by robbers, but later became convinced he conspired with someone to have his wife killed to collect life insurance.

Miura, 60, was convicted in Japan of murdering his wife, but that verdict was overturned by the country's high courts 10

years ago.

Defense attorney Mark Geragos claimed that a new trial for Miura in the United States would amount to double jeopardy because he was already tried in Japan. He also argued that the arrest warrant was defective.

Prosecutors argued that Geragos can't challenge the arrest warrant until after Miura is extradited and appears in Los Angeles for a preliminary hearing.

## ADVANCE X - TERMINATORS

A Professional Termite & General Pest Control Company

A Division of: Advance Group, LLC.

PMB 495 Box 10003, Saipan MP 96950 • Tel.: 670-233-4747 Tel./ Fax: 670-233-0210

Email: [info@wereadvance.com](mailto:info@wereadvance.com) • Website: [www.WereADVANCE.com](http://www.WereADVANCE.com)

### Services Offered:

- Termite Elimination Program
- Pest & Rodent Control
- Soil Poisoning
- Pre & Post construction
- IPM (Integrated Pest Management)
- Free Estimate & Consultation
- Commercial / Residential
- 24/7 "On-Call" service

Authorized firm for:



Termite Interception & Baiting System

Exterra is a Trademark of Ensysyex, USA / Australasia.

## Ogumoro completes basic training

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN  
[rianne\\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com](mailto:rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Air Force Airman Aniceto R. Ogumoro has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six-week training, the 17-year-old airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

## Slots open for GOP nat'l convention

The CNMI Republican Party has announced the availability of the following positions for interested individuals from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to participate in the upcoming Republican National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota from Sept. 1 to 5, 2008.

Interested individuals must submit a letter of intent, resume, and complete an application.

The following programs are available:

■ Page program: Applicant must be at least 16-25 years old;

Ogumoro is the son of Aniceto T Ogumoro and Victoria R. Ogumoro.

Ogumoro completed his credit hours at the Kagman High School before joining the Air Force team. He is also a 2007 graduate of Tinian Jr. and Sr. High School.

His parents had to sign a consent form to allow their son to join the Air Force because he is only 17.

The airman's parents said they are very proud of their son for pursuing a career with Air Force "at such a very young age."

"This is a very big opportunity for our son. We are very happy for him and we are confident he will accomplish a lot," the father said.

■ Intern program: Applicant must be currently enrolled at any postsecondary educational institution; and

■ Delegate aide: Applicant must be able to assist the delegation and be at all meetings called by the chairman.

All expenses to attend the RNC convention must be the responsibility of the applicant. Deadline to apply is April 10, 2008, by 5pm. Final selection will be made by the RNC Committee on Arrangements.

Submit the required documents through email to [anatergeyo@gmail.com](mailto:anatergeyo@gmail.com). (GOP)

# Special Sunday Lunch at

## Festive Buffet

with Champagne, Beers and Wines

Only \$18.00 for adults  
\$9.00 for kids ages 5 to 12 y.o.

VIP and Local Discounts Apply

Avail of our Swimming Pool facility, just ask your friendly servers

Weekend Get Away

Over night Stay with Special Sunday Lunch for 2

\$99.00

Plus free entrance to Club V

For inquiries or reservation please call  
234-6601 ext. 301-302

Another exciting offer from the Grand



# Red Cross holds biggest CPR training

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

More than 90 people, mostly students, participated in the four-hour Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training sponsored by the American Red Cross NMI Chapter yesterday at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Room.

Health care providers, security guards, hotel employees, and community members also joined in the program called American Red Cross Super CPR Saturday.

After the training, the participants were given CPR certifications that are good for one year.

Health and safety instructor Glenn Policare told Saipan Tribune that they are very happy because it was one of the biggest classes they have had on the island.

Students were charged only \$2 each, while community members were charged \$5 each.

"We try to make this as affordable as possible. Our goal for this particular class is to get as many people certified as possible, give people a chance



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Almost a hundred participants gather at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa yesterday morning for the "Super CPR Saturday" training hosted by the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross.

to get out there and help out," Policare said.

He said the participants were made to undergo an adult CPR class.

Policare said the classes were broken to three different sections—with one session called recognition and response. Under this session, he explained, people learned to recognize the different emergencies and situations that they may encounter in the community.

"We talked about breathing emergencies, how to help people who are having trouble breath-

ing. And most importantly at the end we taught them how to recognize people that are having a heart attack and if someone does have heart attack, what they can do to help before the ambulance arrives," he said.

The instructor, however, stressed that CPR alone is sometimes not enough to bring people back.

He cited that in the recent case of former CNMI national basketball player Rick Alegre who died in the basketball court, had somebody started CPR early, he would have had a better chance

of surviving.

Policare said he doesn't know if Alegre would have regained consciousness.

"But he definitely would have had a better chance if somebody had responded prior to EMS [emergency management technicians] arriving," he pointed out.

"CPR is a very basic and simple skill. It's a three to four-hour class. Red Cross does them on a monthly basis. It is open to anybody that wants to come. People just have to be willing to help out in emergencies," he added.

One of the participants, Janel Villegas, brought her son Daniel and daughter Lakell to the seminar.

Villegas said her family has been doing a lot of volunteering work in the community particularly in sports and education so they decided to get CPR skills.

"We just do many things outside in helping people in sports and education. It would be good to have the skills," Villegas said. "I had taken it [CPR class] several years ago in the states.

It was a great refresher course. Things change. You forget a lot so it's really good," she said.

Daniel Villegas, 17, said he learned CPR from boys scouting, but that he is excited because it was the first time he has gotten certified.

For 13-year-old Lakell Villegas, she feels good because she will now have more opportunity to help people.

"I learned a lot of things that I haven't learned before," she said.

## Rising prices starting to pinch consumers

From Page 1

For Peggy and David Valdez of Houston, feeding their family of four means scouring grocer ads for the best prices, taking fewer trips as a way to save gas and simply buying less food, period.

"We do more selecting, looking around, seeing which prices are cheaper," said David Valdez. "We are being more selective. We have got to find the cheapest price."

Record-high energy, corn and wheat prices in the past year have led to sticker shock in the grocery aisles. At \$1.32, the average price of a loaf of bread has increased 32 percent since January 2005. In the last year alone, the average price of carton of eggs has increased almost 50 percent.

Ground beef, milk, chicken, apples, tomatoes, lettuce, coffee and orange juice are among the staples that cost more these days, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Overall, food prices rose nearly 5 percent in 2007, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That means a pound of coffee, on average, cost 57 cents more at year's end than in 2006. A 12-ounce (336-gram) can of frozen, concentrated orange juice now averages \$2.53—a 67-cent increase in just two years.

And a carton of grade A, large eggs will set you back \$2.17. That's an increase of nearly \$1 since February, 2006.

"The economy is having a definite impact on shopper behavior," said Tim Hammonds, president and chief executive officer of the Food Marketing Institute, a retail trade group. "People are significantly changing what they do."

Soaring prices are causing shoppers to rethink long-held habits such as store loyalty.

Wal-Mart and other supercenters that sell food now account for 24 percent of the market, according to the most recent annual survey of shopping habits by Hammonds' organization.

Gina Pierson, a music teacher in Columbia, Missouri, buys her family's staples at local grocery stores but makes regular trips to Wal-Mart to supplement the weekly shopping list. Like many families struggling to get by, Pierson and her husband, a public school teacher, are adjusting their approach to buying, cooking and eating food. Restaurant meals are now almost a luxury.

"Between food and gas, it's just cheaper to stay home," she said.

In 2007, the FMI survey showed the average number of weekly shopping trips falling below two per household for the first time.

Paula Curtis, a mental health worker in Montpelier, Vermont, said her grocery bill has been steadily climbing by \$10 to \$20 a week. She has cut back on meat, fruit, vegetables and snack food, and buys milk at the gas station, where she said it's cheaper.

"Every time I go, it's more and more," she said. "I make a list, but I don't necessarily get everything on it because I can't afford everything."

Nationwide, a family of four on a moderate-cost shopping plan now spends an average of \$904 each month for groceries, an \$80 increase from two years ago, according to the USDA.

Those who can't absorb the added expenses are increasingly seeking help from food pantries. America's Harvest, which distributes nearly two billion pounds (about 907 million kilograms) of food and grocery products each year to more than 200 food banks across the U.S., estimates that its overall client load increased by 20 percent in the fourth quarter of 2007.

## Another garment factory to close down

From Page 1

Camacho said that he went to Kyungseung's factory in Sadog Tasi on March 31 to discuss Labor's concerns with the factory's management. He also answered questions about repatriation issues and pending labor cases.

The Labor investigator said he would visit the factory again on April 21 to address the employees' right to transfer and any complaints.

Kyungseung general manag-

er Gyeong Bog Lee recently informed Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas about the factory's closure on May 24.

In a letter to employees, Lee cited the adverse economic condition brought by the application of the Federal Minimum Wage Act in the CNMI, the trade competition in China and other Asian countries, the increased cost of doing business in the CNMI, and the lack of orders as reasons for ceasing operation.

"Because of the company

has no other choice but to close down the garment factory, it is with deep regret of the decision I had to make. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the services you provided to this company," Lee told the employees.

When Kyungseung closes next month, only five factories will remain on Saipan: Rifu, Onwell Manufacturing, United International Corp., Marianas Garment Manufacturing, and Uno Moda.

Six garment factories have already closed since the start of 2008, affecting close to a thousand workers.

Many garment factories on the island started ceasing operations since January 2005 when the World Trade Organization lifted trade quotas.

CNMI used to have 34 garment factories, all located on Saipan. The garment industry used to contribute some \$60 million in direct taxes a year to the local government.

## Federalization bill to see action next week

From Page 1

While the legislation itself is non-controversial, floor action has been delayed by procedural objections from Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla. Earlier this year, Coburn reached an agreement with Reid that he could offer five amendments to an earlier version of the bill when it came up on the floor.

The agreement broke down

after Coburn sought to offer controversial amendments, including four on property rights and one that would allow visitors to carry loaded guns in national parks.

Coburn vowed to place a procedural hold on the new bill unless Reid honors the earlier agreement and does not try to prevent him from offering his amendments.

Democrats may "fill the

amendment tree" with other modifications, thus blocking Coburn's efforts, according to advocates following the bill. A Reid spokesman would not comment on possible amendments.

Coburn may not be able to stall action on the bill, however, because at least 60 senators appear ready to supply the votes needed to overcome any filibuster he might stage.

## 2 brothers arrested for allegedly beating up spectator

From Page 1

The victim, identified only as Mr. Soleman, suffered bruises to the ribcage.

Preliminary police investigation showed that on March 2, shortly before noon, Soleman was under a tent watching the soccer game between the Korean and Thai teams.

During the game, a referee gave one of the Korean players a "red" card. The player

who was given the red card became angry and wanted to fight with the referee.

The report did not state if the player given the red card was Jin Wook Cho but detective Katherine M. Manglona stated in her report that suspect Jin Wook Cho got angry and broke the corner flag and boxes for the track and field safety guide.

Jin Wook Cho then turned around and allegedly kicked Soleman on the ribcage, causing

the latter to fall to the ground.

While Soleman was on the ground, Jin Wook Cho allegedly kicked him several times in the body.

The other suspect, Jin Koo Cho, joined his brother by repeatedly punching the victim in the chest and covering his nose and mouth to prevent him from breathing.

Some co-players stopped Jin Koo Cho from further beating the victim.

The Cho brothers also allegedly punched another witness, Humainun Kobir, in the chest.

Soleman asked Jin Koo Cho why he was attacking him, but the suspect (Jin Koo Cho) allegedly started beating him up again.

The victim struggled and called for police assistance.

Jin Koo Cho was arrested at the scene. His brother fled on board a vehicle and was arrested only on Thursday. Both are now in police custody. (Ferdie de la Torre)



# Torres chided for kid-glove treatment of NMC

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley T. Torres has advised the chairman of the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare to take action and "seriously question" the Northern Marianas College about its ongoing deficiencies.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres also chided committee chair Rep. Ralph R. Torres for going easy on NMC president Carmen Fernandez during a committee hearing in the House chamber, when Rep. Ray Palacios asked her on the status of Rep. Stanley T. Torres's court case with NMC.

"You interjected and told him that the court case was 'personal problems' between NMC and me," Rep. Stanley T. Torres told Rep. Ralph R. Torres in a letter. "Ai adai, if you continue...taking this approach and refuse to call in NMC to seriously question them about its ongoing deficiencies, WASC [Western Association of Schools & Colleges] will continue to hear about my case in court until Judge David Wiseman renders his good judgment which I'm confident that I will win."

Rep. Stanley T. Torres said that when NMC declared a state of exigency in March, that meant that NMC "would be

fully transparent and it would adhere to the Open Government Act to satisfy WASC and the CNMI public."

However, "NMC is still being sued in court for refusing to turn over simple public documents," Rep. Stanley Torres said.

Rep. Stanley Torres filed an Open Government Act lawsuit against NMC in 2007 after the college refused to comply with his request for payroll information in connection with his investigation on alleged improper financial activities at NMC.

The Open Government Act request included information on the "president's contract, housing

benefits justification, her alleged \$10,000 moving expense perk from nearby Guam and all of NMC's recorded disaster items."

According to Rep. Stanley Torres, NMC failed to furnish the requested documents to date.

Rep. Stanley Torres mentioned that after NMC declared its state of exigency, Fernandez did "what any good sustain-

able government leader does in a time of crises and lack of funds—she hurries down to the airport and jumps on the first plane (to Hawaii this time), in order to spend CNMI taxpayer funds to consult with anybody there in Hawaii about how to run a college in Micronesia!"

He added that if Rep. Ralph Torres can prove that NMC's

problems are only a figment of his [Stanley Torres'] imagination, "then I will publicly announce my 'personal flaws.'"

Rep. Stanley Torres challenged Rep. Ralph Torres to request copies of the NMC president's contract benefits, "and if you receive them, then a major part of Superior Court Case No. 07-0339 will be moot."

## Bennett to divide questions between BOE and governor

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With the CNMI Supreme Court deciding not to entertain the certified questions he had submitted for interpretation, former teacher representative Ambrose M. Bennett said there's only one thing he can do right now: present the same questions to the Board of Education and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

"As a teacher, the only thing I can do right now is take those questions that I had mentioned and forward them to the Board of Education and the Governor," Bennett said.

In an interview yesterday, Bennett said he will divide the questions between the BOE and the governor.

"If the Board and the governor truly care about teachers, they will answer these hard questions for teachers," Bennett said.

The questions are:

- **Board of Education:** The Constitutional Amendment requires an "exclusive bargain-

ing representative of teachers." What qualifies a group of teachers to be considered the "exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within PSS?"

- **Board of Education:** In the absence of a non-profit organization with a majority of teachers as members or a union, will an exclusive bargaining group of teachers that have been selected by teachers at the school level to represent teachers at each school collectively fulfill the constitutional requirement to be recognized as a collective to constitute the exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within the Public School System?

- **Board of Education:** Is the Board of Education required to bargain with the Teacher Representative?

- **Board of Education:** Will an administrator have a conflict of interest representing teachers as the Board of Education Teacher Rep?

- **Governor:** What is the Governor's role in the selection

process in the absence of a recognized exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within the Public School System?

- **Governor:** Who is responsible for conducting the selection process in the absence of an exclusive bargaining representative of teachers?

- **Governor:** Can the Election Commission be solicited by Executive Order to conduct an election for teachers until an exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within the Public School System can be established and recognized?

The Supreme Court denied former BOE chairman Roman C. Benavente and Bennett's petition for the court to answer legal questions regarding the constitutional process for selecting a teacher representative.

Chief Justice Miguel Demapan's slip opinion stated that, because Benavente and Bennett failed to satisfy the constitutional prerequisites for certifying legal questions to the court, their petition is denied.

### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Department of Public Health  
Women, Infants and Children Program  
Navy Hill Bldg N-25



#### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On August 8, 2007 the Department of Public Health officially opened the Women, Infants and Children Program, better known as "WIC."

The WIC Program is 100% federally funded, and provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and health care referrals for pregnant and new mothers, infants and children below the age of five (5).

The WIC Program's goals are to reduce nutrition related health problems, promote breastfeeding, prevent anemia, and help lower medical costs for low-income families in the CNMI.

WIC foods include iron-fortified infant formula and infant cereal, iron-fortified adult cereal, vitamin C-rich fruit or vegetable juice, eggs, milk, cheese, peanut butter, dried beans/peas, tuna fish and carrots. Special therapeutic infant formulas and medical foods may be provided when prescribed by a physician for a specified medical condition.

The Program would like to thank the community for its patience during the initial phase of operation, and would like to assure the residents of Rota and Tinian that plans are underway to bring services to these respective islands. More information will be provided when the proposed opening dates are confirmed.

Eligible participants must meet income guidelines, CNMI residency requirements, and be determined to be "nutritionally at risk" by a health professional.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 236-8750/58 or visit the WIC Clinic in the CHC Dialysis Center, north entrance.



- Sushi, Sashimi and Specialty Salad Bar
- Authentic Chinese Dishes
- Peking Duck Station
- Extensive Seafood Buffet Featuring Crabs Legs, Oysters and more

VIP/Local Discount Applies

## Sunday Brunch

Visit us every Sunday  
and enjoy the island's best variety of fresh  
cuisine prepared before your eyes at our  
numerous Live Action stations!

Includes Free champagne,  
Juices and draft beer with your brunch!

All for only \$25 for adults, \$12.50 for kids 5-11  
Starting from 11 am - 2 pm

Plus FREE Complimentary Pool pass!

Live the Fiesta Way!



- Carving Stations for Roast Beef and Lechon
- Italian Pasta Station
- Okonomiyaki Station (Japanese Pizza)
- California Mexican Station
- Dessert Buffet with Crepe Station

Call 233-6414 For Reservation and Inquiries



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 97Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### At our best

President Bush is going partway toward atoning for his sins in the Middle East by rebuilding Africa. His leadership in fighting disease and poverty on the continent culminated Wednesday with a breathtaking gesture from the House of Representatives, which took the president's generous proposal to spend \$30 billion over five years fighting AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis around the world and upped it by \$20 billion.

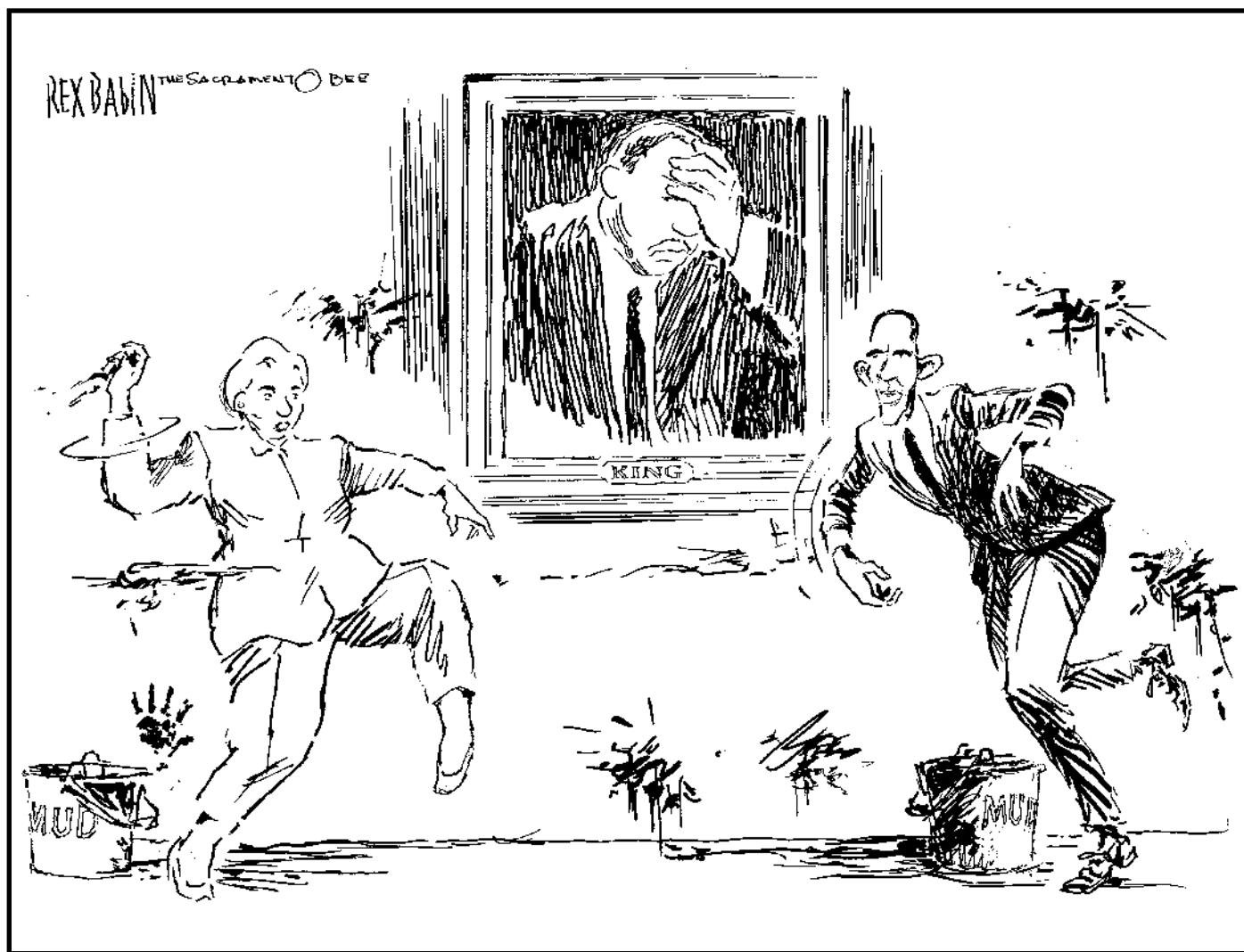
The \$50-billion reauthorization for the president's anti-disease program, which is also expected to pass in the Senate, marks a dramatic shift in the United States' attitude toward foreign aid. This country has supported big international disease-eradication projects in the past, notably when it led a World Health Organization crusade against malaria in the late 1950s, but never with such an enormous financial commitment. We'd like to think this reflects a realization that saving lives and rebuilding economies destroyed by disease is a better way to enhance global security and stability than dropping bombs on people.

The bill does come with a few flaws. The most controversial aspect of the president's program when it was launched in 2003 was a requirement that 33 percent of the money for AIDS prevention had to be spent on abstinence-only programs, a bone tossed out to win the support of the religious right. The House bill scraps that requirement, only to replace it with a rule that may be nearly as bad. Now, if a program spends less than half of its budget for preventing sexual transmission on abstinence efforts, it has to send a report to Congress justifying the decision. That could have a chilling effect on programs that would rather spend the money on condoms but don't want to risk having their funds cut off by conservative lawmakers.

There are conflicting studies on the effectiveness of abstinence programs in places such as Uganda, but it's clear that health experts in the field are better judges of the best way to prevent AIDS in a given country than Congress. The Senate should scrap the reporting requirement.

Such quibbles aside -- and there are other details in the bill attracting the ire of the fractious public health community -- the House bill gives Americans a good reason to be deeply proud of their country, a feeling many war-weary patriots haven't experienced in a while.

© 2008, Los Angeles Times



## A better understanding of Muslims

By JOHN L. ESPOSITO and DALIA MOGAHED  
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Winning hearts and minds—the Bush administration, foreign-policy wonks, even the U.S. military agree that this is the key to any victory over global terrorism. Yet our public diplomacy program has made little progress toward improving America's image. Few seem to recognize that American ignorance of Islam and Muslims has been the fatal flaw.

How much do Americans know about the views and beliefs of Muslims? According to polls, not much. Perhaps not surprising, the majority of Americans (66 percent) admit to having at least some prejudice against Muslims; 1 in 5 say they have “a great deal” of prejudice. Almost half do not believe American Muslims are “loyal” to this country, and 1 in 4 do not want a Muslim as a neighbor.

Why should such anti-Muslim bias concern us? First, it undermines the war on terrorism: Situations are misdiagnosed, root causes are misidentified and bad prescriptions do more harm than good. Second, it makes our public diplomacy sound like double-talk. U.S. diplomats are trying to convince Muslims that the United States respects them and that the war on terrorism is not out to destroy Islam. Their task is made infinitely more difficult by the frequent airing of anti-Muslim sentiment on right-wing call-in radio, which is then heard on the Internet.

Finally, public ignorance weakens our democracy at election time. Instead of a well-informed citizenry choosing our representatives, we are rendered vulnerable to manipulative fear tactics. We need look no further than the political attacks on Barack Obama. Any implied connection to Islam—attending a Muslim school in Indonesia, the middle name Hussein—is wielded to suggest that he is unfit for the presidency and used as fuel for baseless rumors.

Anti-Muslim sentiment fuels misinformation and is fueled by it—misinformation that is contradicted by evidence.

Starting in 2001, the research company Gallup embarked on the largest, most comprehensive survey of its kind, spending more than six years polling a population that represented more than 90 percent of the world's 1.3 billion Muslims. The results showed that much of the conventional wisdom about Muslims—views touted by U.S. policymakers and pundits and accepted by voters—is false.

For instance, Gallup found that 72 percent of Americans disagreed with this statement: “The majority of those living in Muslim countries thought men and women should have equal rights.” In fact, majorities in even some of the most conservative Muslim societies directly refute this assessment: 73 percent of Saudis, 89 percent of Iranians and 94 percent of Indonesians say that men and women should have equal legal rights. Majorities of Muslim men and women in dozens of countries also believe that a woman should

have the right to work outside the home at any job for which she is qualified (88 percent in Indonesia, 72 percent in Egypt and 78 percent in Saudi Arabia) and to vote without interference from family members (87 percent in Indonesia, 91 percent in Egypt, 98 percent in Lebanon).

What about Muslim sympathy for terrorism? Many charge that Islam encourages violence more than other faiths, but studies show that Muslims are at least as likely as Americans to condemn attacks on civilians. Polls show that 6 percent of the American public thinks attacks in which civilians are targets are “completely justified.” In Saudi Arabia, this figure is 4 percent. In Lebanon and Iran, it's 2 percent.

Moreover, it's politics, not piety, that drives the small minority—just 7 percent—of Muslims to anti-Americanism at the level of condoning the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Looking across majority-Muslim countries, Gallup found no statistical difference in self-reported religiosity between those who sympathized with the attackers and those who did not. When respondents in select countries were asked in an open-ended question to explain their views of the Sept. 11 attacks, those who condemned it cited humanitarian as well as religious reasons. For example, 20 percent of Kuwaitis who called the attacks “completely unjustified” explained this position by saying that terrorism was against the teachings of Islam. A respondent in Indonesia went so far as to quote a verse from the Quran prohibiting killing innocents. On the other hand, not a single respondent who condoned the attacks used the Quran as justification. Instead, they relied on political rationalizations, calling the United States an imperialist power or accusing it of wanting to control the world.

If most Muslims truly reject terrorism, why does it continue to flourish in Muslim lands? What these results indicate is that terrorism is much like other violent crime. Violent crimes occur throughout U.S. cities, but that is no indication of Americans' general acceptance of murder or assault. Likewise, continued terrorist violence is not proof that Muslims tolerate it. Indeed, they are its primary victims.

Still, the typical American cannot be blamed for these misperceptions. Media-content analyses show that the majority of U.S. TV news coverage of Islam is sharply negative. Americans are bombarded with news stories about Muslims and majority-Muslim countries in which vocal extremists, not evidence, drive perceptions.

Rather than allow extremists on either side to dictate how we discuss Islam and the West, we need to listen carefully to the voices of ordinary people. Our victory in the war on terrorism depends on it.

*Esposito is an Islamic-studies professor at Georgetown University; Mogahed is executive director of the Center for Muslim Studies at Gallup; they co-wrote Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think.*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Join in, everyone: We’re going to take a cynicmental journey

By LINTON WEEKS  
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

First there was the Epoch of Sincerity. Then the Snark Ages. Now we are on the verge of a whole new period in American popular culture.

We’ll name it in a moment. For the longest time, we were a nation of nurture. We sipped cider through a straw, choosily chose Jif, trusted our cars to men wearing stars. Hollywood played along, reminding us that “It’s a Wonderful Life” and that the hills were alive with “The Sound of Music.” It was a time of innocence, simplicity, respect—in pop culture, if not always in real life.

Sentimentality reigned, frequently expressed through “the happy ending.” We laughed together, wept together, said “awww” together when Andy Griffith or June Cleaver gave us a parental talking-to.

In the last decades of the 20th century, however, the American mood shifted, our mores morphed. The planet may have warmed, but the culture cooled. Sarcasm overswept the zeitgeist like a glacier. Our worldview became less trusting, more cantankerous. And we buried sentimentality in cement.

Its demise began in the 1960s and ‘70s with the rash of political assassinations and Watergate and, arching over all those events, the rise of the counterculture. For our society, “that was the beginning of loss of faith and trust,” former poet laureate Billy Collins says in an interview. In order to be earnest, “you have to expose yourself to emotions. We have become a lot more guarded.”

And a lot more cynical. The revolt against sincerity—the Snark Ages, still upon us—began as a rebellion against corny, over-the-top displays of emotion in movies, songs, TV shows. But the rebellion spiraled out of control, and any public expression of emotion, no matter how sincere, was a target for mockery. Old war movies and romantic dramas, taken seriously the first time around, were consumed by a younger generation as farce—as “camp.”

Remember the cover of the January 1973 issue of National Lampoon? Everybody was talking about it; this was back when provocative magazine covers were the exception. The controversial image was a gun pointed at the head of a cute black-and-white dog. The cover line: “If You Don’t Buy This Magazine, We’ll Kill This Dog.” The lovable pet, an icon of sentimentality, was taken hostage by a new attitude.

Perhaps the perfect expression of the collision between the Epoch of Sincerity and the Snark Ages was a little song by a one-hit wonder named Morris Albert. It was a Top 10 hit in the summer of 1975 but soon, and forever after, it became the emblem of phony, cheesy, hopelessly square culture. It was lampooned relentlessly, and still is.

The song was titled “Feelings.” In 1979, John Irving wrote an essay in the New York Times defending the emotional work of Charles Dickens to the modern, anti-mush reader. He exhorted contemporary authors to risk exploring and exposing those much-maligned feelings. “As a writer it is cowardly to so fear sentimentality that one avoids it altogether,” Irving wrote. “A fear of contamination by soap opera haunts the educated writer—and reader.”

■ ■ ■ “Saturday Night Live,” which first aired in 1975, put sentimentality in the town square stocks. Soon sarcasm and irony (poster boy: David Letterman, circa 1983) flooded television, leading to perhaps the most unsentimental of all network sitcoms, “Seinfeld.” The first commandment of the series, according to head writer Larry David: no hugs and no lessons.

Of course, a nation’s popular culture is never monolithic, and it doesn’t entirely cease being one thing and become another. There were always pockets of snark in the Epoch of Sincerity. Check out, as a few examples among many, the movies of W.C. Fields, the novels of Nathanael West, Bette Davis in the 1950 “All About Eve” declaring, “I detest cheap sentiment.”

Conversely, treacle has survived into the Snark Ages in Mitch

Albom books, Thomas Kinkade art and ballads on country radio. But we are talking about the predominant uber-tone of the respective eras.

Today, in the Snark Ages: The daytime TV screen is alive with angry people airing weird grievances in mock courtrooms, demanding paternity tests to prove that some no-good bum is the baby’s father. The Huxtable family of “The Cosby Show,” perhaps the last bastion of sitcom sweetness and light, was replaced by “The Osbournes.” It could be argued that a vast majority of TV shows exploit, if not celebrate, the darkest aspects of human nature.

The World Wide Web is awl with vitriol: Gawker, Wonkette, Perez Hilton and other wicked Web sites—some whose names we can’t even print—all dedicated to the daily takedown.

The culture “has lost the capacity to be nice, to appreciate, to be modest, and even to be reverential—all relatives of the appreciation family of emotions,” says Dacher Keltner, a psychology professor at the University of California at Berkeley and director of the school’s Greater Good Science Center.

In our lives, Keltner says, we spend more and more time in chance encounters with pure strangers rather than with the people we trust. Because we are more self-oriented, snug under our iPods, we spend fewer moments with old friends, grandparents, extended family—those who give rise to occasions for what Keltner calls “deep niceness.”

Kurt Andersen, a founder of mock-all-things Spy magazine in 1986, is now a novelist and host of the public radio show “Studio 360.” “If someone were to look at 2008 culture from 1963,” he says, “I suppose it would look strangely unsentimental.”

For college students these days, columnist Zach Jones of the Cornell Daily Sun wrote in 2006, “sincerity and earnestness are better taken when they are delivered behind a wall of violence, sex and cynicism. Face it, instead of ‘All You Need Is Love’ we have ‘Milkshake,’ and instead of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ we have ‘Kill Bill.’ This is the new romanticism.”

At Amazon.com, the No. 1-selling game for the No. 1-selling Nintendo Wii game system is Super Smash Bros. Brawl, which pits once-lovable icons like the Super Mario brothers and Sonic the Hedgehog against one another in brutal combat.

Sentimentality, writes English professor Joan Mellen of Temple University in an essay on literature, is “the cousin of self-pity... friend to the status quo, and to passivity. A formidable enemy, of moral no less than of artistic integrity, in art as in life, in these beleaguered times it is best quickly identified, and then scrupulously avoided.”

■ ■ ■

Where did all this antisentimentality come from? For one thing, so many of us have become alienated from the institutions that have traditionally bound us together—our government, our jobs, our extended families. Unfulfilled by our institutions, we feel forced to be cool culturally, in ways that we aren’t when dealing on a one-to-one level.

Amitai Etzioni, who teaches sociology at George Washington University, suggests that perhaps we have grown more cynical because we can no longer freely express our feelings. “Once upon a time, we had a rich social fabric,” Etzioni says. “Sometimes it was too rich, too binding. It defined clearly the norms of good behavior and the kudos we could expect when we behaved and the criticisms we could expect if we failed. These norms also defined what emotions we could show and when we could show them. It made their expression safe.

“As we have lost a good part of the social fabric, it is now risky to say ‘I love you’—it might be too early—or to allow a tear to form when singing the national anthem. It may not be cool. Hence, we hide behind aloofness and cynicism.”

There has been a disconnect between the emotions in our real lives and the entertainment we consume. Popular songs and images used to reflect our inner feelings. But we’ve become too jaded to join together anymore.

And yet.... We still have feelings in these Snark Ages. Sentiments, if not sen-

timentality. People still say “I love you” to each other. They still send flowers. They cry at funerals and at movies (in the rare instance where movies try anymore to make them cry). Greeting-card shops are still in business.

We still aspire to the happy marriage—or relationship—and to have well-adjusted children in our lives, even if it makes us suspicious and uneasy to see such things portrayed onscreen or in songs.

We live in a complex age and an age of complexes. We have been abused as kids, betrayed by the church, duped by advertisers. How could we possibly return to an age of innocence? We have, as Shakespeare put it, “drunk and seen the spider.”

And so we have reached a point when we want to have it all ways. We want to hold on to our feelings in an unfeeling world. Somehow, we are learning to celebrate sincerity while we continue to eschew spoon-fed sopppiness. We look for ways to tightrope between sentimentality and cynicism.

We are on the threshold of the Cynicmental Era. Sentimentality, says Billy Collins, is on the “low end” of emotions. “Its opposite is cynicism. What I enjoy seeing is this thing that avoids both sentimentality and cynicism: irony.”

He says that irony “exists in the middle range, mixing the meanness of sarcasm with the sopppiness and weakness of sentimentality.”

Collins is a cynicmental poet. In “Picnic, Lightning” he observes that the heart is no valentine, and it can unexpectedly “quit after lunch, the power shut off like a switch.” He contemplates the cold heartlessness of the possibility, which leads him to the tender, life-affirming thoughts that “Then the wheelbarrow is a wilder blue, the clouds a brighter white, and all I hear is the rasp of the steel edge against a round stone, the small plants singing with lifted faces, and the click of the sundial as one hour sweeps into the next.”

Balance is what it’s all about. We see through pandering political ads, but we can still be moved when Clinton chokes up or Obama’s rhetoric soars. We’ve read about corruption in the churches, yet we read Jan Karon’s sweet Father Tim books by the millions. We cheer on bloodthirsty full-contact Ultimate Fighting Championship gladiators while stuffing hearts into Build-A-Bears. On MySpace, you find countless photo albums of college students looking all peachy and sweet in one pic and throwing up beer on each other in the next.

The online dead-flowers delivery service, DeadRoses.com, based in, no kidding, Bloomington, Ill.—has been growing steadily for 10 years. A hearty majority of its commerce comes in February, for Valentine’s Day. How sweet! And sour!

Cynicmental movies abound. “Garden State,” “Juno” and “Superbad” are bittersweet tales of youthful angst packed with snarkastic dialogue and ironic situations. Dave Eggers writes stories that are at once heartwarming and heartbreaking.

In music, the No. 2 song in a recent Billboard Hot 100 chart was the lowdown “Low” by Flo Rida featuring T-Pain. An expurgated excerpt: “Shorty was hot like a toaster/Sorry but I had to fold her/ Like a pornography poster.” But the No. 1 song was Alicia Keys’ soppy “No One”: “No one no one no one/ Can get in the way of what I feel for you.”

We still work crossword puzzles though we know there are computer programs that work for us. We gather to play poker with friends instead of playing online all the time.

Kurt Andersen says that he, like Billy Collins, is looking for a place to stand where he can still be moved by the world. The ground has shifted and what has happened to the culture’s sensibility, he says, “can’t be put back in the tube.”

But he still wants to find the sentiment in the cynical and the ironic in the sincere. “We are also human beings who want to experience emotions and sentiments when something happens. Like when our parents die.”

“We are in a dialectical period,” he says, finding a third way to respond to the human condition that encompasses both compassion and coolitude.

We are entering the Era of the Cynicmental.

## Letters to the Editor

### ‘Do away with Chiget fence’

I read with great interest the article in the April 4 *Saipan Tribune* on the military using Tinian for artillery practice. What interested me in this article is the following statement: “Burton said the Marines are also concerned about citizen and tourist access to historical/

cultural areas on Tinian and that they intend to work with the government of the CNMI on that issue.”

I doubt this statement is TRUE! If the military is really interested in allowing citizen and tourist access to historical/cultural areas on Tinian,

why did they fence off Chiget Beach? The cove, which is at Chiget Beach, is the only place on Tinian that has turtle grass. I used to take my natural history and environmental science classes regularly to Chiget to learn about this unique environment and the fault zone located here, but this will no longer be possible.

Additionally, there are Chamorro base rock grinding stones at the edge of this beach. Historically, the fuel line

for the Japanese airfield on Tinian was located here. Parts of the pipes for this fuel line are still visible on the beach and in the cove. This area used to have a fence before, but the beach was not fenced off as it is now. The old fence used to run along the north side of the finger cove at Chiget.

Why couldn’t the military build it there again, instead of fencing off the beach? My daughter learned to swim at this beach because there are

little if any waves. Now she will no longer be able to swim at this beach. To see how the military has changed Chiget, just go to <http://hiketinian.blogspot.com> and look at the pictures on the March posting called Chiget Update. Please remove the fence from Chiget so that people can use the beach again.






**Howard Cole**  
*Marpo Valley, Tinian*



Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲84° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼73
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85 ▼75

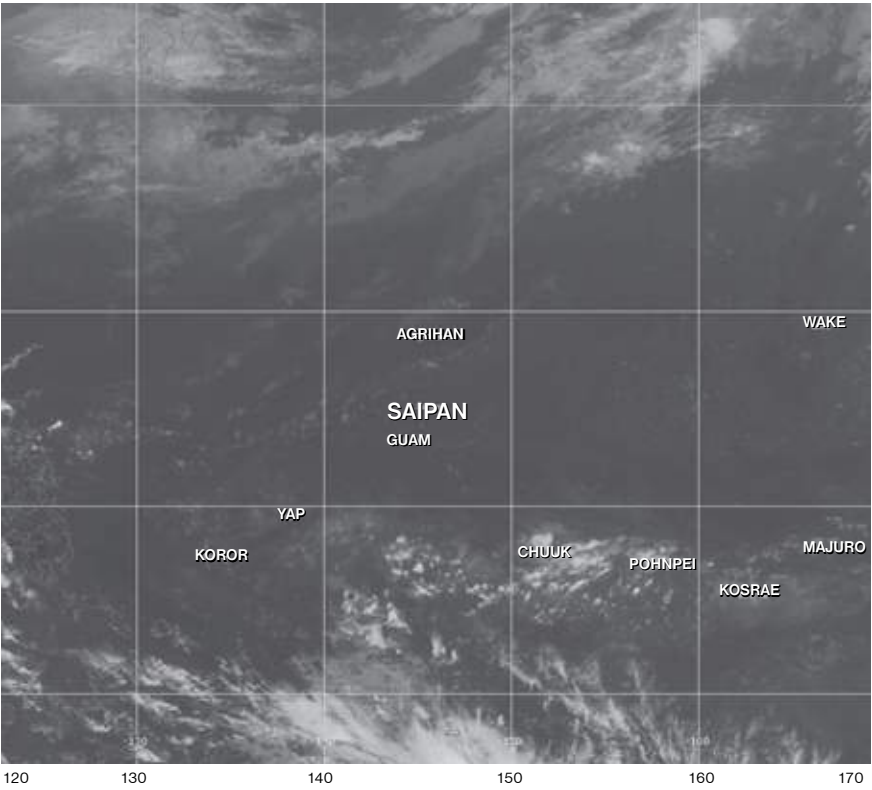
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲67 ▼54
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲67 ▼50
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼70
London	Rain/Snow	▲45 ▼34
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲67 ▼54
Manila	Cloudy	▲92 ▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲70 ▼55
Miami	Cloudy	▲85 ▼72
New York	Sunny	▲57 ▼41
Osaka	Cloudy	▲58 ▼52
Paris	Cloudy	▲46 ▼31
Pusan	Showers	▲63 ▼50
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲61 ▼46
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲53 ▼36
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲62 ▼47
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲59 ▼43
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼49
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼43

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:35AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:25AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:01PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
8:16PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008**  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.  
An elongated upper-level trough extends from the south of Pohnpei at 5N158E to 20N180. Scattered showers are found within 100 miles of a line from 7N143E to 6N164E. Also, scattered showers are occurring east of Wake Island, between 13N and 21N east of 173E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:09AM	6:30PM
Monday	6:08AM	6:30PM
Tuesday	6:08AM	6:30PM
Wednesday	6:07AM	6:31PM
Thursday	6:06AM	6:31PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:48AM	6:35PM
Monday	6:33AM	7:37PM
Tuesday	7:22AM	8:42PM
Wednesday	8:17AM	9:46PM
Thursday	9:17AM	10:55PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
  - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
- HOW TO SUBMIT**
  - E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya  NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b> CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	<b>Manila-Saipan</b> CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror  CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)







# Good Housekeeping

Canadian painter Margaux Williamson, left, meets with patrons at the Greens' Los Angeles home.

LOS ANGELES TIMES



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Fette and Matthew Green in their living room, where a gallery bench doubles as their bed.

## Home is where the gallery is

By JANET EASTMAN  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**LOS ANGELES**—You can count the pieces of furniture on your fingers. In the living room, one bench and two tiny tables. In the dining room, another bench. And in one bedroom, nothing.

In an era defined by consumerism, collecting and clutter, the home of Fette and Matthew Green in nearby Culver City is

an ode to simple living, a place where minimalism isn't a look. It's a living.

"It may sound weird to others, but this is how we define comfort," said Matthew, a mild-mannered graphic artist. "It's comfortable to not have too many possessions or be caught up in accumulation. Even the art we have is temporary."

Indeed, part of the reason for the spare decor is the house's dual

purpose as a gallery for Fette, an art dealer and blogger. Only when she's done receiving clients for the day do the rooms—their white walls loaded with original art—morph back into living space. Each evening the upholstered bench in the living room folds out into a bed, and sheets and blankets are laid into place.

When friends come over for Fette's native French food, the desk in the master bedroom/of-

fice gets set in the dining room. When Fette's favorite young artists come to town, they often sleep on the second bench, rolled from the dining room to the second bedroom.

Living this sparingly isn't so unusual, say the young couple. They contend that most people battle to keep a home—especially a small one—neat. They just have perfected the art of ordered chaos.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Toiletries and art materials share space in a closet.

Closets are stretched to their limits. In the pantry, V8 juice bumps up against bubble wrap. In the hall closet, boxes of Band-Aids lean against a leveler. In a bedroom closet, cardboard tubes of artwork rise from the floor till

they meet a clothes rod and its dangling bag of packing peanuts.

And in the garage? Who needs a garage?

"We could have a lot of the regular comforts and be home every night watching TV in big chairs," Matthew said, standing in the middle of a mostly empty living room, underneath a ribbon of gallery track lighting. "But we'd rather have art on the wall, room for people to see it and a place where artists can stay."

Every month, Fette hangs new pieces of contemporary art or projects new art films onto the walls. She sends e-mails to friends and clients, inviting them to meet the artists—most of whom are from other countries—at a Friday night reception. And the narrow street outside gets lined with cars.

At her most recent party, patrons, art students and curious neighbors gathered inside, wineglasses in hand, studying the work on display. Fette, in a chic black-and-white dress with matching heels, introduced Canadian painter Margaux Williamson and Dutch photographer Melanie Bonajo, who was staying in the guest bedroom.

The room has no door separating it from the hall, and three partygoers were ensconced on what later would be her bed, but Bonajo just shrugged.

"I'm sleeping under Margaux's painting, and I've had good dreams because of it," Bonajo said. "Besides, it's for only two nights."

Fette, 27, always dreamed of opening an art gallery. Living in Los Angeles' Venice section, she couldn't swing gallery space rents that ran about \$5,000 a month, not if she still wanted to focus on emerging artists and dedicate 10 percent of her proceeds to Doctors Without Borders.

So she and Matthew came up with a solution: They packed up their essential belongings and moved into their current two-bedroom bungalow Oct. 1, 2006.

Twenty days later, she received a Culver City business permit and held her first show.

"It's not unusual for art dealers to work out of their home," says Christine Byers, the city's public art coordinator. "But she's the only one I know of in Culver City."

**24/7 POWER AVAILABLE**



**Realty Management Services**  
A TanHoldings Company

Realty Management services is a full-service property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PMB 521 Box 10000  
Saipan, MP 96950-8900  
Tel: 1 (670) 235-6527/28  
Fax: (670) 235-6530  
sales@rmssaipan.com  
www.rmssaipan.com



**OCEANVIEW TERRACES**



Spacious two bedroom terrace apartments with a beautiful view of Western Saipan from Navy Hill. All units feature a private balcony, are fully furnished and feature FREE wireless DSL internet service.

- 24 Hour Water
- Night time security
- Typhoon Shutters
- Laundry area
- Backup Generator
- On-call maintenance staff

**Now we're giving you more reasons to sign up for a year's contract!**

Receive an annual FREE VIP Membership to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and enjoy these VIP privileges:

- 1 Free Sunday Brunch Buffet for two
- 20% discount on food and beverages in all outlets / restaurants
- 20% discount on drinks after happy hour at the Chambre Bar
- Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)



# Simple, stylish seat redux

The furniture chain Room & Board has helped revive a mid-century classic, one of more than a dozen chairs designed by Hans J. Wegner, an icon of Danish modern design.

THE WASHINGTON POST

By ANNIE GROER

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

In 1951, Hans J. Wegner, an icon of Danish modern design who died last year at age 92, created the Sawbuck chair. With its curved back and seat and graceful legs, it was striking and comfortable. Limited production of the piece, also known as CH28 after its Danish manufacturer, Carl Hansen & Son, ended in 1965.

Now the furniture chain Room & Board has helped revive the mid-century classic, one of more than a dozen chairs Wegner designed. Last month, it reappeared exclusively at

Room & Board, which teamed with Hansen to bring it back. Hansen has made a range of Wegner furnishings since 1949.

At \$2,550, the CH28, with a walnut back and seat and oak legs, is not cheap, concedes Betsy Kershaw, Room & Board's merchandising director. But eight of the first 100 chairs have sold since hitting stores last month.

"It is definitely a kind of sit-back-and-relax chair," says Kershaw, and it perfectly epitomizes Wegner's belief that "furniture needs to be functional and beautiful."

To order, call 800-301-9720 or visit [www.roomandboard.com](http://www.roomandboard.com).

## KITCHEN MAGIC

### Spring Ramen Chicken Soup

5 cups water  
2 packages (3 ounces each)  
chicken-flavor ramen  
noodle soup mix (substitute Oriental-flavor)  
2 cups (about 6 ounces)  
snow peas  
2 green onions  
1 large carrot  
1 pound chicken breasts,  
skinless and boneless  
1 teaspoon Asian sesame oil

1. In 4-quart saucepan, heat water with seasoning packets from ramen soup mix to boiling over high heat. Meanwhile, remove strings from snow peas and cut each diagonally in half. Slice green onions and shred carrot. Cut chicken into 3/4-inch pieces. Break ramen noodle block into 2 layers.

2. When water mixture boils, add snow peas, green onions, carrot, chicken and noodles. Cook 3 to 5 minutes over high heat or until chicken just loses its pink color throughout. Remove saucepan from heat. Stir in sesame oil.

(c) 2008 Hearst Communications, Inc.

## A fresh coat for spring

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA  
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.



**Q:** In mid-winter I moved into an apartment that had been occupied by a smoker. Cleaning up wasn't too bad—there was no carpet to worry about, and the drapes had been removed. However, the walls are all dingy and I'd like to freshen up the place. Will my landlord allow me to paint the apartment? Do you have any tips on making the apartment look bigger and airier?—Jeri K., via e-mail

**A:** Painting your apartment shouldn't be a problem. Most apartment leases include sections on redecorating -- specifically painting, wallpapering and carpeting. Check your lease to see if there are any limits on the types of colors one can use or even if the apartment management or landlord offers any rebates for doing improvements yourself.

Most landlords want to be informed of any painting or related work in an apartment. A heads-up is not only polite, but can also be helpful if there are areas that the landlord needs you to avoid or to be careful

around, or if he or she would prefer that you use latex or oil-based paints.

#### Here are a few tips:

- Wash the walls a couple of days before painting by dipping a sponge in warm, soapy water and wringing it out well. This will remove grimy residue and help the new coat of paint better adhere to the old surface.

- Apply spackling paste over unused nail holes and smooth using a putty knife.

- Try to use the same type of paint—latex or oil-based -- as the old coat. If this is not possible or you don't know for sure, apply a coat of primer paint the day before painting.

- The same goes for significant color changes, especially if you're painting a light color over a darker one -- apply primer beforehand.



#### HOME TIP:

Painting the walls and ceiling with lighter colors can make a room seem bigger, brighter and cooler, while darker colors give a room a warmer, cozier feel.

Send questions or home-repair tips to [homeguru2000@hotmail.com](mailto:homeguru2000@hotmail.com), or write *This Is a Hammer*, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.



*Saipan Tribune*, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

#### REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

#### SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

#### ART DIRECTOR

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

#### GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

#### EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). On-island hires preferred.

*Hafa Adai!*

**Saipan Tribune**  
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



# The Good Life

## A plum-gorgeous road trip

By AMY HUBBARD  
© 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**PINE FLAT LAKE, Calif.**—As the campfire blazed next to us, we admired a sky that looked like deep purple velvet filled with pinpricks of starshine.

My husband, Tim, our 4-year-old daughter, Ellen, and I had motored north in our RV to Fresno County for a two-night stopover at Pine Flat Lake, broken up by Blossom Trail explorations.

Along the way, I scribbled notes, and upon scanning them post-trip, a pattern emerged:

"Sweet, sweet weather.

Smacked head in RV.

Glorious green hills, twisty trees still gray from winter.

Hot dogs fell in fire.

A sleek horse running along a dirt track,

palatial houses, tumbledown barns.

Smacked head in RV (again). Mad!

Tree after tree holding blossoms—cotton candy on a stick.

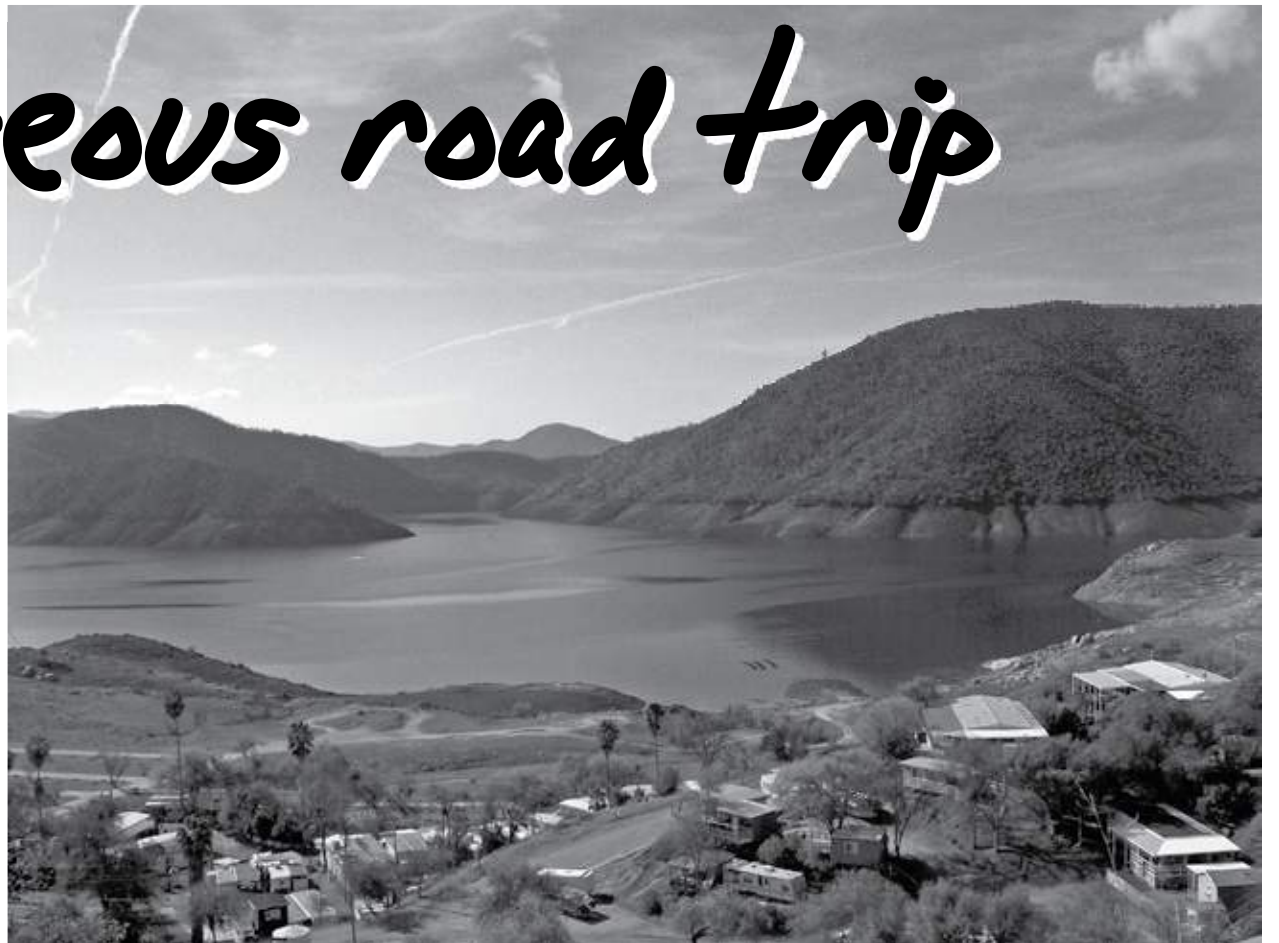
\*&^%\$#@ Note to self: Duck."

Perhaps I was just dizzy from blows to the head, but the petal spectacle was captivating.

We drove several stretches of the 62-mile Blossom Trail in March. The self-guided route showcases this agricultural area's flowering plum, almond, apricot, peach, nectarine, apple and citrus trees.

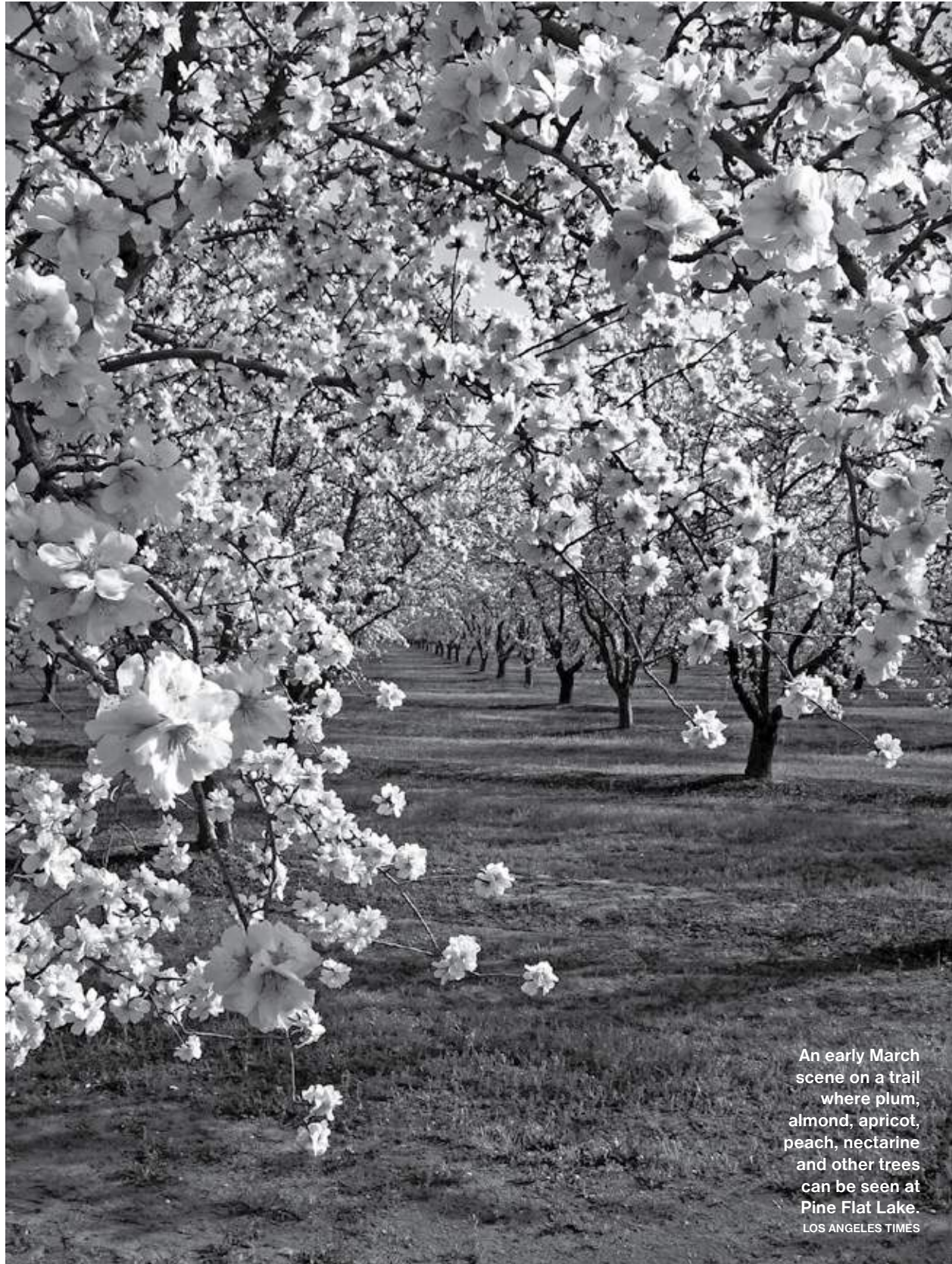
We stopped first in Sanger for the Blossom Days Festival, its yearly nod to the ritual, a feeling of lazy fun. We dined on barbecue beef and potato salad while petals from nearby trees dropped like gentle rain. Kids gathered them and threw them in the air.

We had come to blossom country to



LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's a peaceful day at Pine Flat Lake, about 18 miles from the Blossom Trail in Fresno County. But water sports on the lake begin to heat up beginning in May.



An early March scene on a trail where plum, almond, apricot, peach, nectarine and other trees can be seen at Pine Flat Lake.  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

take the annual drive, which covers an area roughly from Sanger on the north, Reedley on the south, California Highway 99 to the east and Orange Cove to the west, including the part of the trail filled with orange trees.

Some trees were beginning to bud. Others were already bountiful. Pale white blooms looked delicate against dark branches. From a distance, the trees seemed loaded with marshmallow fluff.

The roads were wide open under a wide-open sky. We were among a few blossom fans who were stopping for a closer look and to snap pictures of row upon row of flowering trees that lined the roads.

Along one length of the trail, we glimpsed the snowy tops of distant mountains, which I first mistook for a long line of clouds. Early March, we found, was a great time to catch the serene scenes.

Peace also reigned at Pine Flat Lake, where we made camp at Island Park, one of several camping areas at this lake run by the Army Corps of Engineers. The lake is about 18 miles from the Blossom Trail, a drive that took us more than half an hour. If visiting both sites, drive the trail on the way up from Los Angeles or on the way back home.

This was low season at the lake. The action heats up from May through September, but anglers come year round for the trout, bluegill, salmon and more.

"We hold the world record for the largest spotted bass," park ranger Nick Figueroa said.

The lake is 20 miles long and has 67 miles of shoreline. It's one of the larger lakes in California's Central Valley, Figueroa said.

"Skiing, wakeboarding, boating, fishing ..." said Sandy Mendoza, who calls herself the "unofficial host" and



LORENA INIGUEZ Los Angeles Times

the only year-round resident at the lake, listing some of the popular activities.

The water can be thick with visitors in high season, she said, but for now there was quiet. "The lake was like glass yesterday."

Tim, Ellen and I are not boaters or skiers. We are hikers and connoisseurs of California scenery. So we hiked down to the lake from Island Park through a field of scattered boulders.

Ellen scampered in front of us, slipping on the silty ground. Plants poked through the grainy surface. Horizontal indentations marked the levels of the lake.

We scrambled down the soft, steep embankment. Ellen was fascinated by rocks at the murky edge. I stooped beside her, then stood to admire the rippling water, the mesmerizing beauty of the lake.

My husband said something I didn't quite understand.

"What's that, honey?" I asked.

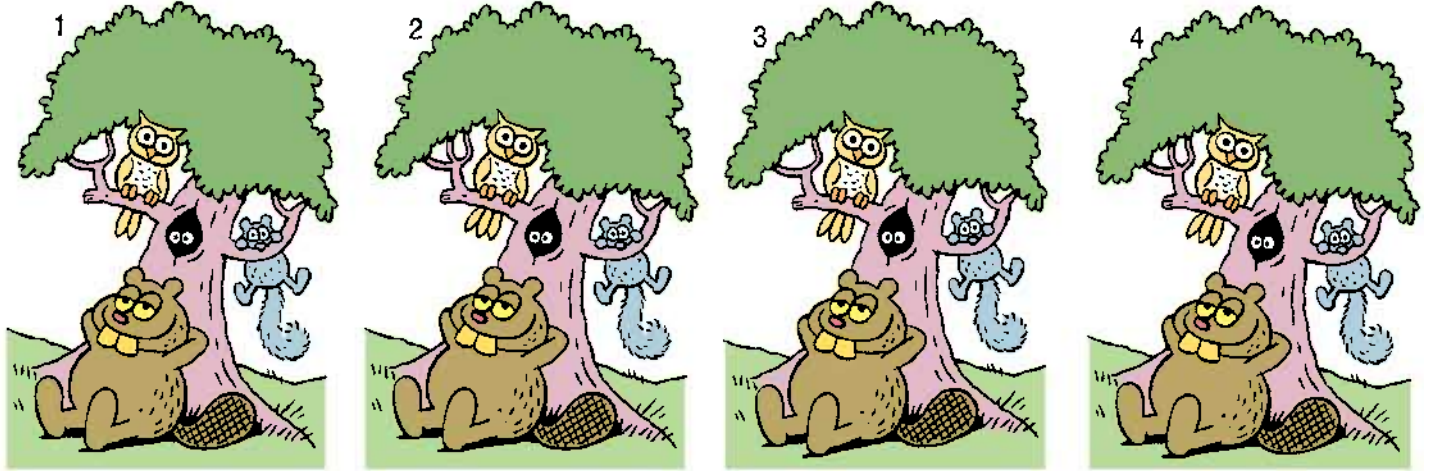
"She's going!" he yelled. "She's going!"

"Four-year-old fell in lake mud."



# Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and COMICS for KIDS

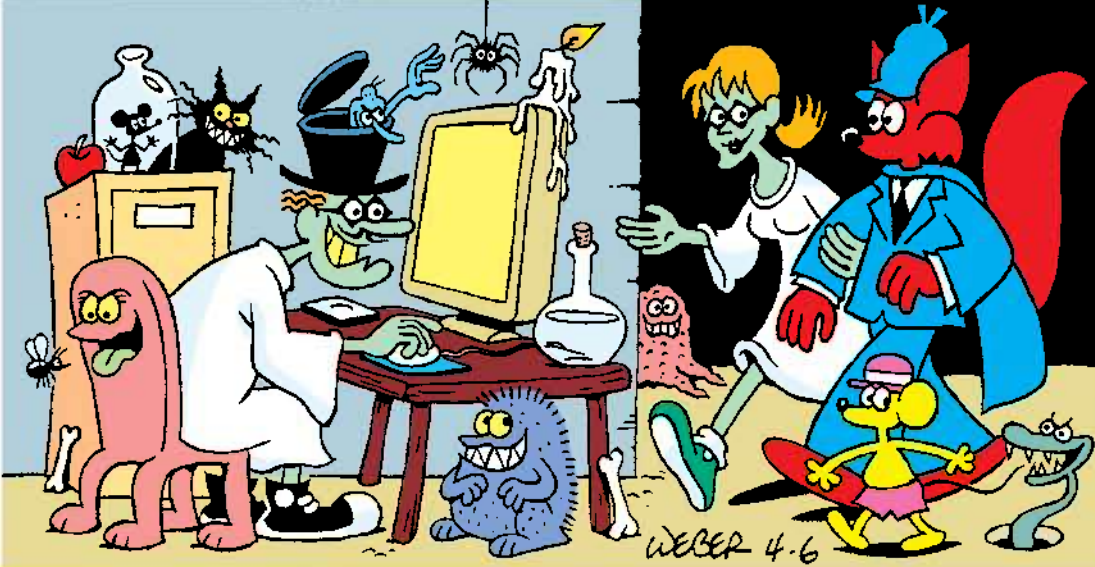
Which two scenes are exactly alike?



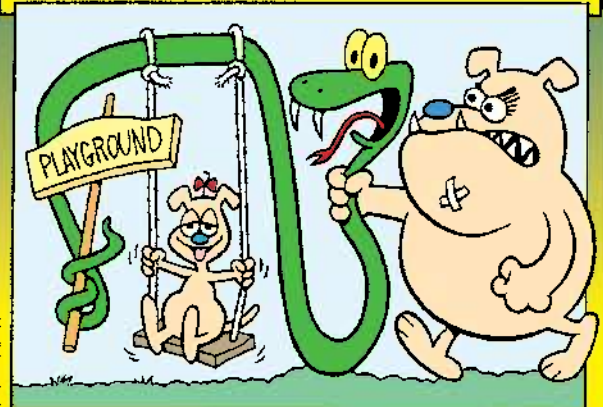
Answer -- Numbers two and four

Count Weirdly is posting an ad on an Internet auction site. He wants to sell a flask of liquid that he is calling a "universal solvent." He claims the liquid dissolves more substances than any other liquid. Weirdly is setting the minimum bid at \$200. Slylock Fox says the flask of liquid is worth less than \$2. Why?

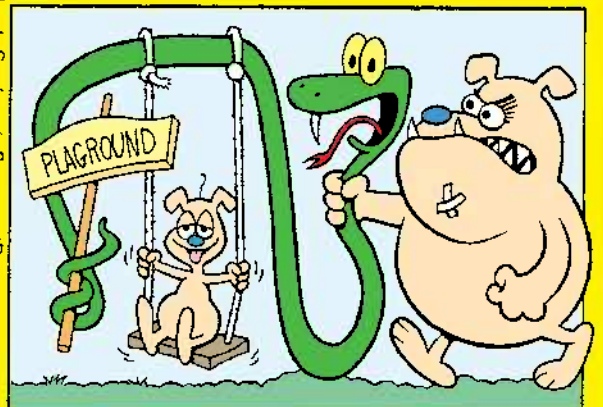
Solution -- Count Weirdly is selling water! Often called a "universal solvent," water dissolves more substances than any other liquid.



Find six differences between these panels.



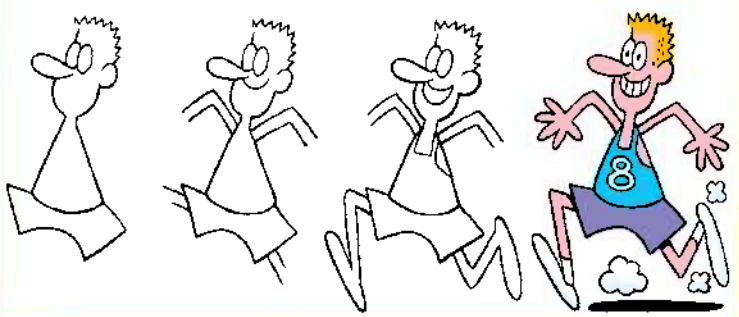
www.kidcartoonists.com



Answer -- Fang, bandage, tail, sign, rope and bow.

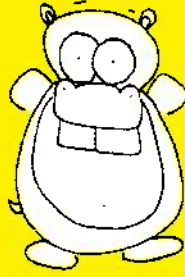
New! The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a marathon runner



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific young artist is Sarah Villalobos, age 11 of Sterling, VA



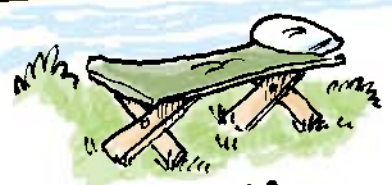
Submit your artwork at www.kidcartoonists.com

Which one of these snakes does not have poisonous venom?  
a) Coral  
b) Python  
c) Cobra  
d) Rattlesnake  
Answer -- b) Python's coil victim stops breathing. Prey and squeeze around their themselves.

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane

7-year-old Billy takes pun in hand to fill in for Jeff and Bil Keane.



Willard's cot

Famous Collectables  
by Billy



Tiger's Woods



Howie's Man Del



Jordin's Parks

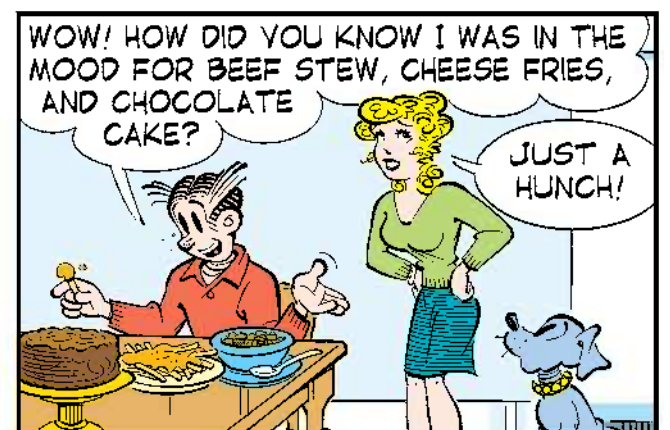
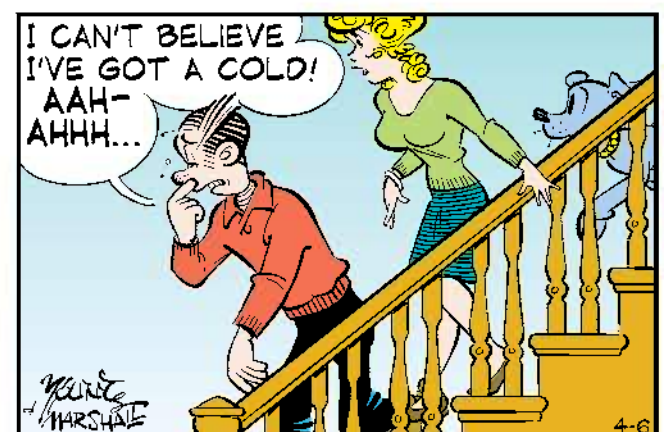
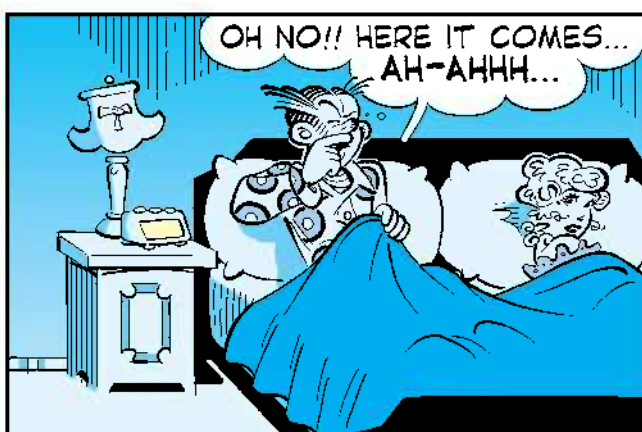
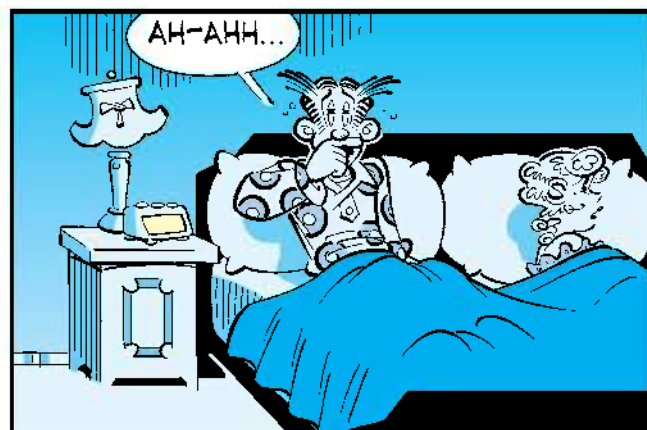
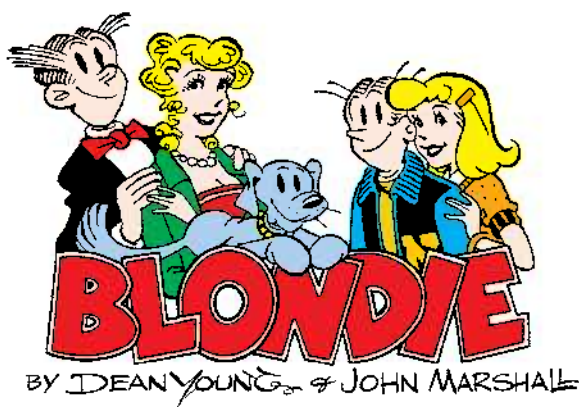
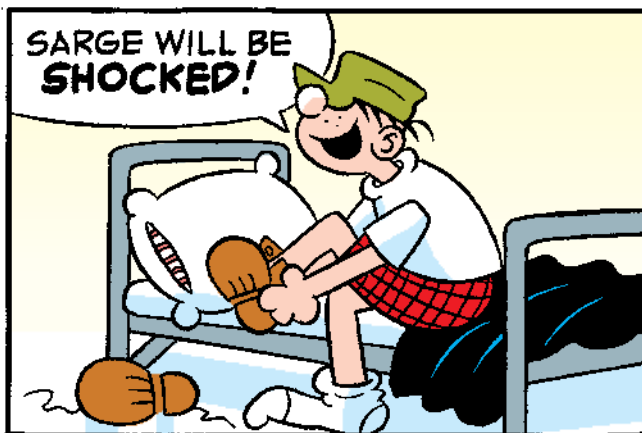
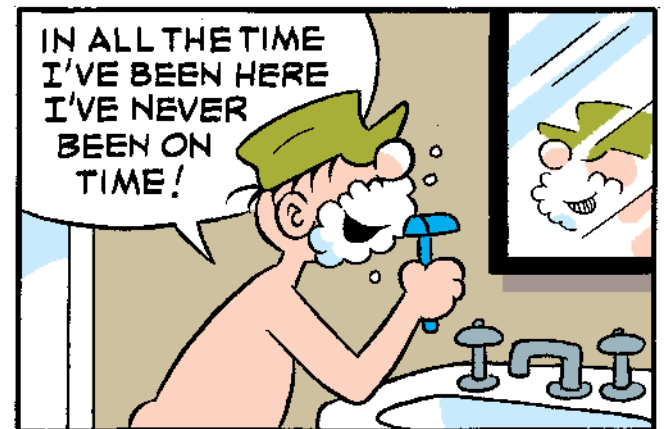
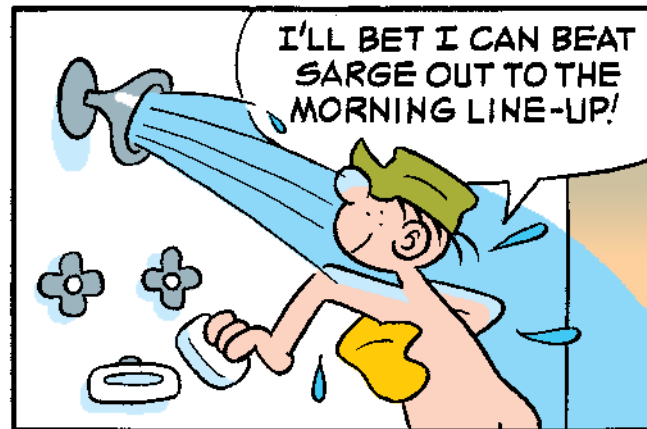
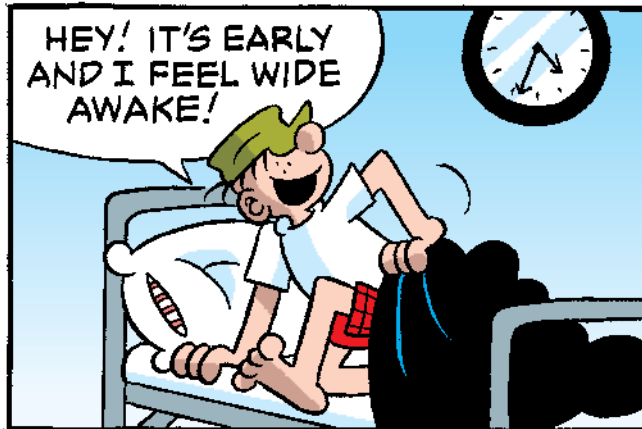
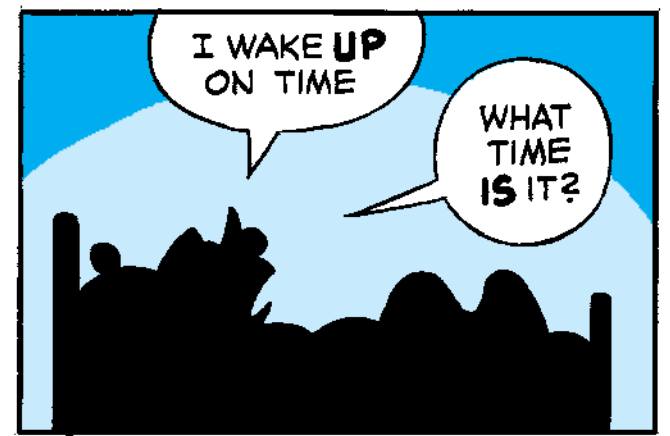
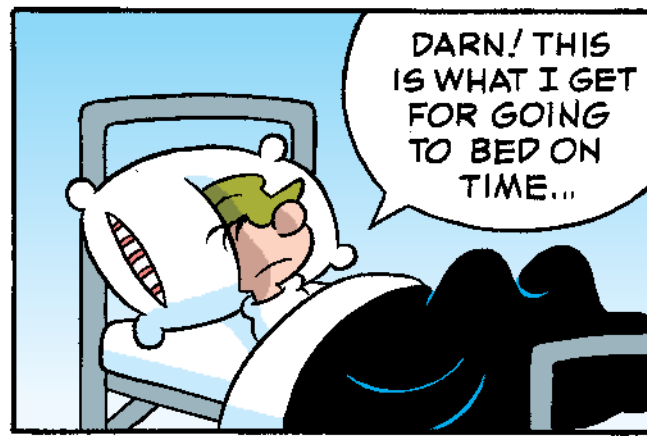
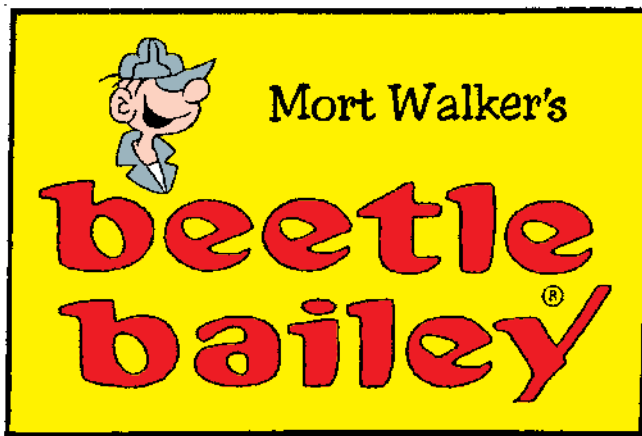


Britney's Piers



Jerry's Seinfeld





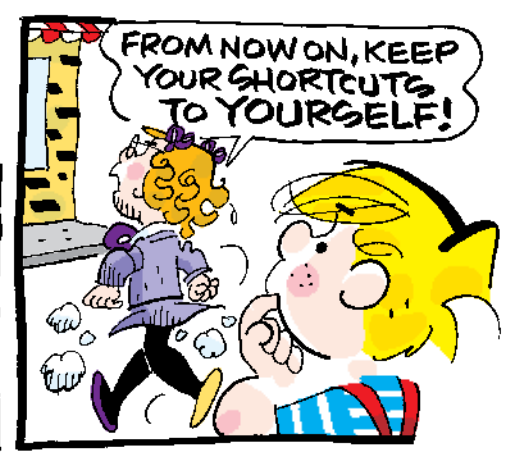
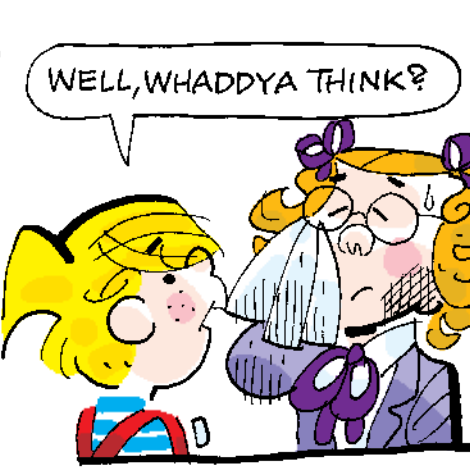
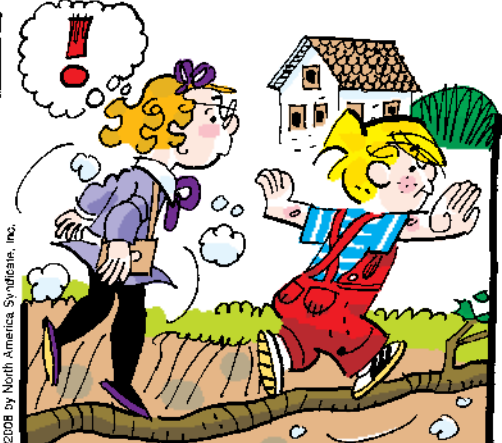
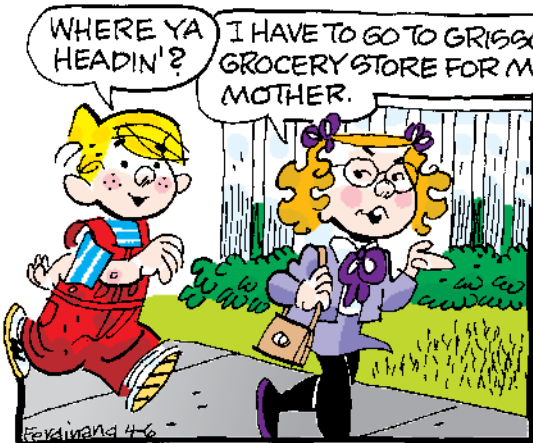
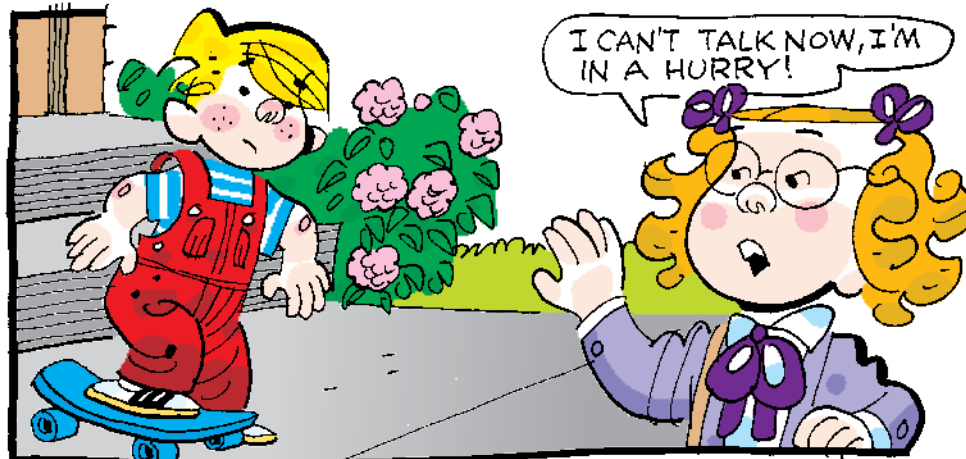
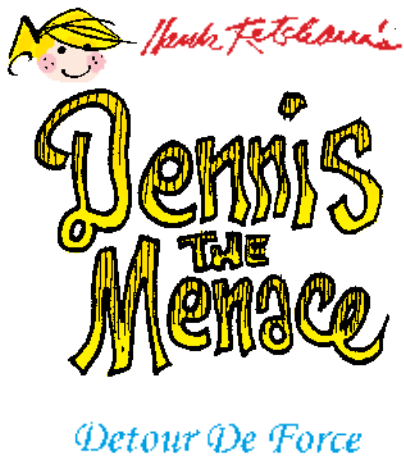
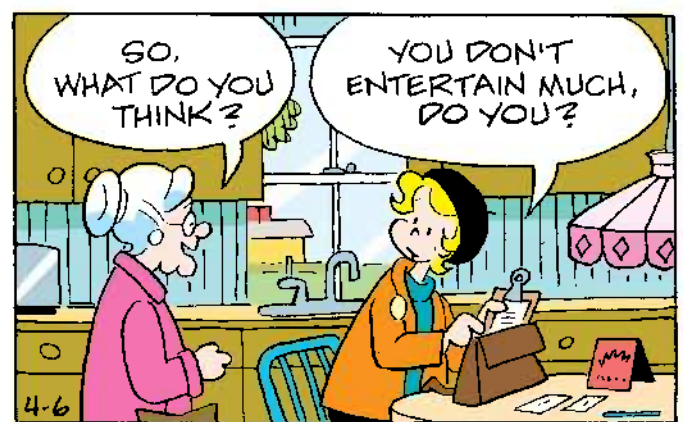
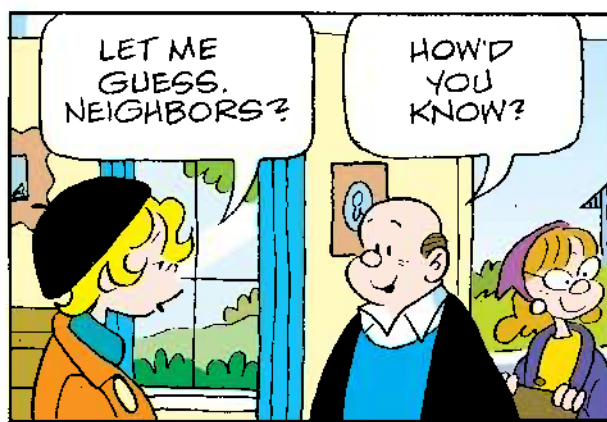
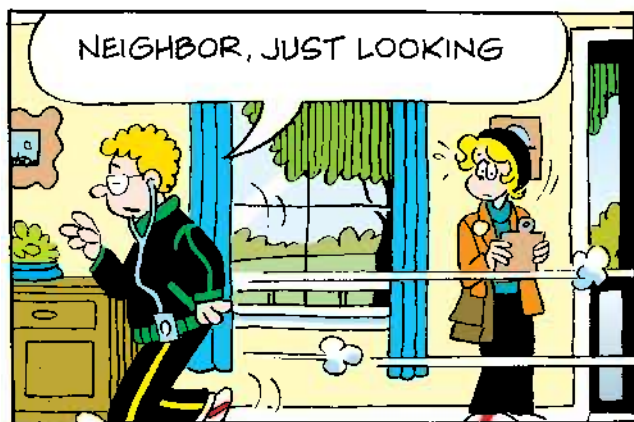
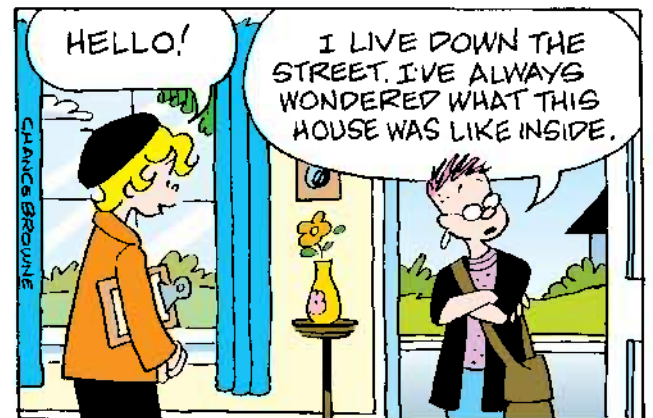
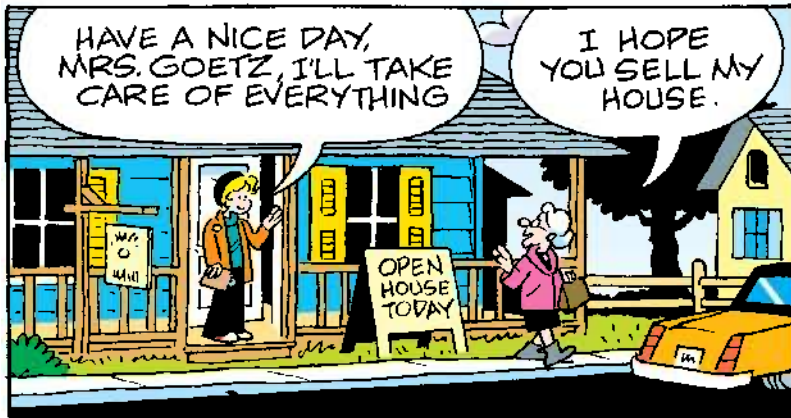
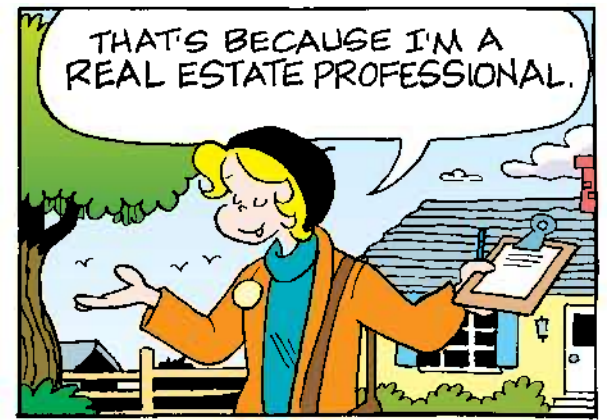
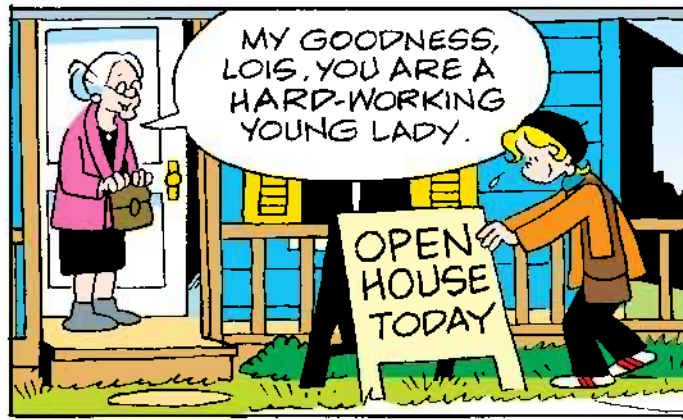
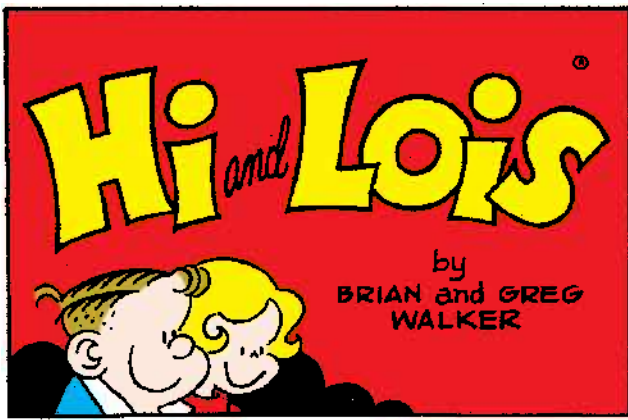
WWW.MORTWALKER.COM

©2008 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

www.blondie.com

© 2008 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights Reserved.

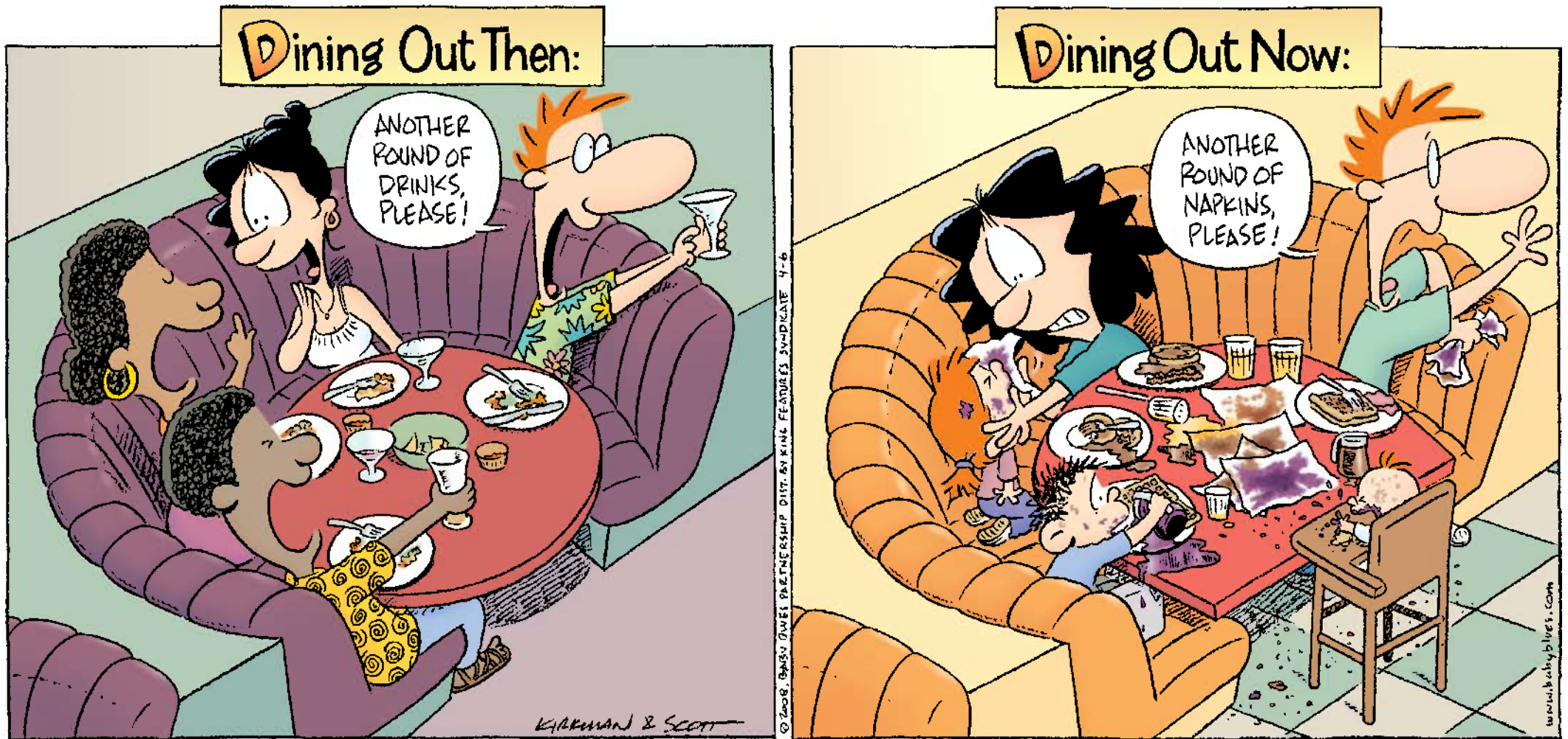






# BABY BLUES™

BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



## Salome's Stars

- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Resist a confrontation with that irksome person. The matter will soon blow over anyway. Meanwhile, channel your high Arian energy into areas with more positive potential.
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) The innovative Bovine finds a creative way to resolve a sensitive domestic problem by mid-week. A former colleague returns with an intriguing business suggestion.
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) An unexpected critical statement from someone you trust could catch you momentarily off guard. But you soon recover your equilibrium and rise to the challenge.
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) You might feel you can handle a new project on your own. But advice from someone with experience could help you avoid possibly costly as well as time-consuming obstacles.
- LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Waiting for others to make decisions is difficult for the take-charge Lion. But by week's end, you should hear news that will help you regain control of the situation.
- VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Your superjudgmental side could dominate the week unless you try to keep it in check. Otherwise you risk offending people, including some who are very close to you.

- LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Expect more information to come out about that possible career shift. Meanwhile, your loving concern helps someone close to you get through a worrisome period.
- SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Despite an occasional setback, workplace pressures should continue to ease through most of the week. This would be a good time to plan that long-delayed trip.
- SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) The sage Sagittarian quickly recognizes an opportunity when she or he sees it, especially if it's one you've been planning for. Take aim and go for it.
- CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) The Sea Goat's unique insight guides you as you check out a questionable situation. Your efforts should prove rewarding for you and your many supporters.
- AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You might want to pace yourself a bit more. Rushing could lead to serious slip-ups. Take more time to check out details you might otherwise overlook.
- PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) The best way to resolve those remaining problems is to ask others for help. They'll be happy to do so, especially when you agree to share the credit for a job well done.

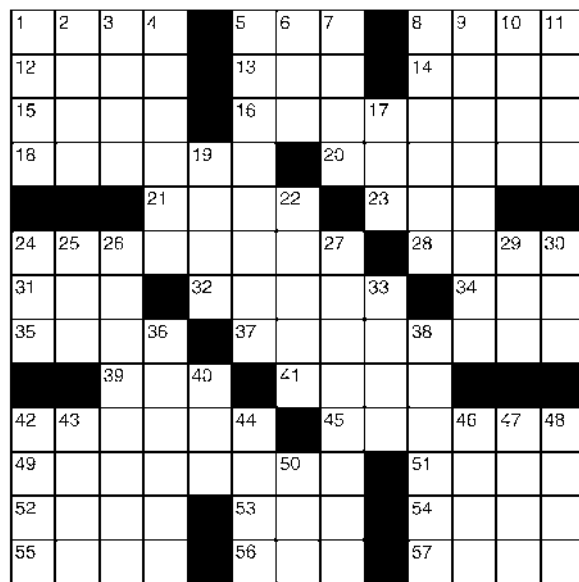
**BORN THIS WEEK:** Your natural gift for honest leadership earns you the respect and admiration of others.

© 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Caution  
5 Phys ed venue  
8 Pack cargo  
12 Sandwich cookie  
13 Floral neckwear  
14 Stephen King pooch  
15 Chicken -  
16 Naked  
18 Cruelness  
20 Wimbledon game  
21 Ahab or Kirk (Abbr.)  
23 Humor  
24 Wood-shop tool  
28 Ace or joker  
31 Greek mountain  
32 Credit's opposite  
34 Rink surface  
35 Slave of old  
37 Boaz, to Naomi  
39 Ocean  
41 Formerly  
42 Head Hun  
45 Approved  
49 Saskatchewan city  
51 Memorization method  
52 Academic  
53 Time of your



- life?  
54 Highland hillside  
55 Sans siblings  
56 Scepter  
57 Shriek bark  
7 Catcher's aid  
8 Panoramic  
9 Prepare to run away  
10 California town  
11 Knocks 'em dead  
17 Chop  
19 Carnelian variety  
22 Forbidden  
24 Bro's kin  
25 Citrus cooler  
26 "Cheers" seat  
27 Sifted  
29 - Victor  
30 Lawn moisture  
33 Watch sound  
36 Aggressively lively  
38 Within reach  
40 Pub order  
42 Bullets  
43 Roger Rabbit, e.g.  
44 Open slightly  
46 Days gone by  
47 List-ending abbr.  
48 Profound  
50 Past

### DOWN

© 2008 King Features Synd., Inc.

## top ten

### Most Purchased Packaged Goods

#### Groceries

1. Fresh Bread
2. Refrigerated Milk
3. Toilet Tissue
4. Fresh Eggs
5. Cookies
6. Ready-to-Eat Cereal
7. Canned Soup
8. Chocolate Candy
9. Potato Chips
10. Batteries

Source: Homescan Consumer Facts

© 2008 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

### KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

FACTS	AMY	OPT
ALOHA	COO	CHI
DINAR	CONCEAL	
STAMEN	OAST	
ARI	HIP	AGNES
SIGH	STAGE	
IGNORE	PENCIL	
PARKA	TOME	
MOTIF	ORE	NAIG
OVEN	HATRED	
CONGEAL	AWING	
HIT	CHA	SEGUE
ADS	ONS	ERKST



# United States

## AP: Govt. plans to cut Army war tours

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration plans to announce next week that U.S. soldiers' combat tours will be reduced from 15 months to 12 months in Iraq and Afghanistan beginning later this summer, The Associated Press has learned.

The decision, expected to get final, formal approval in the days ahead, comes as Gen. David Pe-

traeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, prepares to deliver a progress report to Congress next week on the improved security situation there. He is also expected to make recommendations for future troop levels.

A senior administration official said Friday that plans are to deploy soldiers for 12 months, then give them 12 months rest time at home.

Exactly which units would be affected is not yet clear. The official spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the announcement.

The move to shorter deployments has been pushed by Gen. George Casey, Army chief of staff, as a way to reduce the strain on troops battered by long and repeated tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. But that goal has

been hindered by the ongoing security demands in Iraq.

Officials have been publicly tightlipped in recent days about the move to reduce the tours. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Friday he expected a decision by President Bush "fairly soon" on the Army's proposal. But he also cautioned that cutting troops' time on the battlefield will im-

pose limits on what the military can do in the future.

"So I think the bottom line is, we're all still looking at that. But I think we'll have a better idea of what we think we can do, what we ought to do, in the fairly near future," Gates told reporters Friday.

What the future holds for troops in Iraq will become clearer when Petraeus goes before congressio-

nal committees Tuesday.

Petraeus is expected to lay out his proposal for a pause in troop cuts after July when the last of the five additional brigades ordered to Iraq last year have come home. And he will likely tell lawmakers how many more troops could be withdrawn this year, as long as conditions in Iraq remained stable.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Feds now probing Va. Tech copycat case

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP)—A 20-year-old with a weapons cache that included AK-47s was arrested Friday in South Florida on federal charges of threatening to re-enact the Virginia Tech massacre, the U.S. attorney's office said. Local authorities had arrested Calin Chi Wong at his home last week after finding 13 firearms and more than 5,000 rounds of ammunition, some that could pierce armor, and bullets that could take down aircraft or military machinery. Wong bonded out of jail on those charges but was arrested again Friday after the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated threats Wong made March 25 on the Internet chat site under the screen name "thehumanabc," according to an affidavit.

#### Girls removed from polygamist compound

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)—Child welfare officials following up on an abuse complaint took custody of 18 girls Friday who lived at a secretive West Texas religious retreat built by polygamist leader Warren Jeffs. A total of 52 girls, ages 6 months to 17 years, were bused away on Friday to be interviewed, but only 18 were immediately taken into state custody, said Texas Child Protective Services spokeswoman Marleigh Meisner. No arrests had been made. Authorities had interviewed about half the girls since arriving Thursday evening at the remote compound with law enforcers, she said. Interviews were expected to continue over the weekend.

#### Man pleads guilty to Phoenix shootings

PHOENIX (AP)—One of two suspects charged in a series of random shootings that killed seven people in the Phoenix area pleaded guilty Friday to two counts of first-degree murder. Samuel Dieteman also agreed to testify against his co-defendant, a move that may keep him from being executed. Authorities say Dieteman, 32, and his former roommate Dale Hausner, 35, randomly shot and killed seven people, wounded 17 more and killed several animals during a rampage that continued for several months over 2005 and 2006. Hausner has pleaded not guilty to seven murder counts and faces the death penalty if convicted.

#### Life sentences given in 5 Mo. deaths

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. (AP)—A serial killer pleaded guilty Friday to killing five women nearly 30 years ago in southeast Missouri, but he avoided the death penalty after making a deal with prosecutors. Timothy Krajcir, 63, received five consecutive life sentences for the murder counts, with additional sentences for several lesser charges. Krajcir, who confessed to the crimes last year, agreed to plead guilty if authorities would agree not to seek his execution. Krajcir has admitted to killing a total of nine women in four states. He has already received a combined 80-year sentence for two killings in southern Illinois. He has also been charged with rape and murder in Pennsylvania. He has been indicted in Kentucky on kidnapping and burglary charges stemming from a 1979 death, but the prosecutor said the actual killing did not take place in the state.

#### State extends Blackwater's deal a year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Amid investigations into fatal shootings of civilians and allegations of tax violations, Blackwater USA's multimillion-dollar contract to protect diplomats in Baghdad has been renewed, the State Department said Friday. A final decision about whether the private security company will keep the job is pending, the department said. Moyock, N.C.-based Blackwater is one of the largest private military contractors, receiving nearly \$1.25 billion in federal business since 2000, according to a House committee estimate. Blackwater provides security for diplomats in Baghdad, where the sprawling U.S. Embassy is headquartered.

## Clintons made nearly \$109M since 2000

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Clinton made nearly \$109 million since they left the White House, capitalizing on the world's interest in the former first couple and lucrative business ventures.

The Clintons reported \$20.4 million in income for 2007 as they gave the public the most detailed look at their finances in eight years. Almost half the former first couple's money came from Bill Clinton's speeches.

"I have absolutely nothing against rich people," Hillary Clinton told North Dakota Democrats at their party convention Friday

night in Grand Forks. "As a matter of fact, my husband—much to my surprise and his—has made a lot of money since he left the White House doing what he loves doing most, talking to people."

The tax returns are a portrait in post-presidential success. The Clintons, who had lived in taxpayer-paid housing in the governor's mansion in Arkansas or the White House for years, left the presidency struggling with a legal defense fund stemming from a spate of investigations. They now are wealthy enough that she could

lend her presidential campaign \$5 million earlier this year.

The campaign released tax returns from 2000 through 2006 and gave highlights from their 2007 return. The Clintons have asked for an extension for filing their 2007 tax returns, citing the dissolution of a blind trust last year.

The Democratic presidential candidate and her husband paid \$33.8 million in taxes from 2000 through 2007. They listed \$10.25 million in charitable contributions during that period.



Clinton



As dusk falls in northeast Jackson, Miss., Anna Marie Payne holds her 7-year-old son Bronson Payne up so he can get a better view of the blocked street following Friday afternoon's powerful storms and possible tornadoes that hit the state, April 4, 2008.

## Severe storms rip through South; girl, 2, killed

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Strong thunderstorms toppled trees, knocked out power and damaged homes Friday across the South, while flooding in Kentucky forced evacuations and left a 2-year-old girl dead.

In Mississippi, fast-moving storms unleashed possible tornadoes, heavy rain and some hail. Power failures were reported in several communities, including near downtown Vicksburg and in Jackson.

Tate Moudy of Brandon had just walked into the Southern States Utility Trailer Sales of-

fice on U.S. Highway 49 in Richland after showing a trailer to a customer when "there was a big bang from a transformer being knocked out and debris started flying through the front door."

The powerful storm overturned 18-wheeler trailers, ripped away part of the roof of the sales office and twisted beams in the building, Moudy said. Employees and others had to remain inside because power lines had fallen across vehicles parked in the lot.

"It was scary, I can tell you

that," he said.

The American Medical Response ambulance service, which serves a number of counties in the Jackson area, handled at least 20 storm-related injuries, company spokesman Jim Pollard said. He said he had no immediate information on the nature of the injuries.

At least 90,000 customers of Entergy Mississippi lost power at some point Friday, mostly in and around Jackson, said company spokesman Checky Herrington.

Charles Ware of Canton said

he was in his car outside a Home Depot when winds smashed the window of his vehicle and tossed around shopping carts.

"The whole thing was like being in a silent movie," he told the Clarion-Ledger of Jackson. "Your adrenaline is flowing so much you can see all this stuff but you don't hear anything."

Amid scattered damage in north Alabama, no injuries were reported, but forecasters issued a string of severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings through the evening. No touchdowns were confirmed.



# Asia

## New violence in Tibetan area

**BEIJING (AP)**—New violence has broken out in a volatile Tibetan region of western China, leaving eight people dead, an overseas Tibet activist group said Friday. China's official Xinhua News Agency said a government official was seriously injured.

The London-based Free Tibet Campaign said police opened fire on hundreds of Buddhist monks and lay people who had marched on local government

offices to demand the release of two monks detained for possessing photographs of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled Buddhist leader.

Xinhua made no mention of deaths or injuries among protesters, but said a "riot" had flared up Thursday night outside government offices in the Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture high in the mountains in Sichuan province along the border with Tibet.

It said the official was "attacked and seriously wounded," and said police were "forced to fire warning shots and put down the violence." No other details were given.

The report indicates continuing unrest in Tibetan areas despite a massive security presence imposed after sometimes violent anti-government demonstrations broke out last month in Tibet's capital Lhasa and neighboring provinces.

## Suicide attack kills 4 in Afghanistan

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)** -- A roadside bomb killed a Canadian soldier in southern Afghanistan Friday, while a suicide attack in the same region left three policemen and a civilian dead, officials said.

Canadian Pvt. Terry John Street, 24, of Hull, Quebec, died

as the explosive detonated near his vehicle, said Brig.-Gen. Guy Laroche, the commander of Canadian forces in Afghanistan.

The blast that killed Street - the 82nd Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan - took place in the volatile Panjwahi district west of Kandahar city, long a hotbed of Taliban activity.

Laroche said Canada's presence in Afghanistan is bringing hope to its people.

"This is why our brave men and women accept the risk of this mission," he said. "I can only hope these thoughts will be of some comfort to the family and friends of Pvt. Street."

## Two-meter python snarls traffic in RP

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Commuters in the Philippine capital got a shock when they found an unwelcome passenger on their minibus—a 2.1-meter (7-foot)-long python.

The discovery Thursday sent passengers running and snarled traffic on a busy road in the Manila suburb of Quezon City, police said Friday.

The python had wrapped itself around the steel suspension bars under a "jeepney," a minibus unique to the Philippines, that had traveled into the capital from a nearby province, traffic police Inspector Erlito Renegin said.

Passengers scampered to safety after the snake crawled out from under the jeepney during a stop and onto the road, Renegin told The Associated Press. Other cars tried to avoid hitting it, he said.



Zoo handler Dante Santiago of the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife, holds a 2.1-meter (7-foot)-long python which was discovered on a mini-passenger bus Thursday in Quezon City, near Manila, Philippines on Friday, April 4, 2008.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Arroyo allocates \$1.17B to boost rice production

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The Philippine government will spend more than US\$1 billion to boost rice production, the president said Friday, as the price of the country's staple food rose amid a tightening global supply. "There are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice," President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said at a national food summit in northern Pampanga province. She said the 48.7 billion pesos (US\$1.17 billion) farming budget included 20 billion pesos (US\$479 million) for loans to farmers and 9.2 billion pesos (US\$220 million) for seed production. The rest of the money would be used for fertilizer production, irrigation and infrastructure, technical training, and drying and post-harvest facilities.

#### South Korea slaughtering infected birds

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—Quarantine workers have destroyed more than 100,000 chickens in South Korea following the first outbreak of a deadly strain of bird flu in the country in more than a year, an official said Friday. The Agriculture

Ministry plans to speed up the operation to complete the slaughter of some 308,000 chickens near the outbreak site as soon as possible, said ministry official Kim Chang-sup. The outbreak in Gimje, 160 miles south of Seoul, was the first bird flu case involving the lethal H5N1 strain in South Korea since March last year.

#### Group protests Nazi ad in South Korea

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—A leading anti-Semitism watchdog group called Friday for a South Korean cosmetics company to halt an ad campaign with Nazi references. The Coreana Cosmetics Co. television ad for a skin lotion shows a young woman in a short skirt and military-style trench coat, holding a soldier's cap that appears to have the swastika-gripping eagle Nazi insignia. Background noises of an explosion and crowds cheering in response to a man's unintelligible speech are heard. A version shown in previews and posted on the Web contained the slogan: "Even Hitler didn't have the East and West." The Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center said in a statement that it sent a letter to company leaders calling for the ad campaign to be withdrawn.

# World

## Iraq govt chief reverses course, freezes raids

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—In a dramatic reversal, Iraq's prime minister ordered a nationwide freeze Friday on Iraqi raids against Shiite militants, bowing to demands by anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr only one day after promising to expand the crackdown to Baghdad.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki issued the order after al-Sadr, whose Mahdi Army militia fought government troops last week in Basra and elsewhere, hinted at retaliation if Iraqi security forces continue to arrest his followers.

A statement by al-Maliki's office, broadcast on government television, did not mention the Mahdi Army by name or give a timeframe for the freeze. It said the move was designed to give a "chance to those who repented and want to lay down their arms."

## Zimbabwe ruling party prepares runoff

**HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)** -- War veterans marched Friday in Zimbabwe's capital - a muscular show of support for President Robert Mugabe, whose party said he would fight to retain his 28-year grip on power in a runoff election with the opposition leader.

A week after Morgan Tsvangirai's opposition

## Eight jet plot suspects recorded martyr videos

**LONDON (AP)**—In chilling videos shown to a jury Friday, men accused of plotting to bring down jetliners over the Atlantic called for revenge for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and praised Osama bin Laden.

Six of the eight defendants videotaped messages denouncing the West for what they said was its suppression of Muslims, prosecutor Peter Wright said as he outlined his case to jurors at a London court.

The defendants, all Britons with ties to Pakistan, are accused of plotting to blow up at least seven jetliners bound for the United States and Canada in 2006.

Some of the group were heard on secret police surveillance discussing plans to take their wives and young children on the suicide missions, Wright said.

Wright showed a jury clips of the so-called martyr videos, recorded for distribution after

the attacks. Each man wore a black-and-white checkered head scarf and sat alone in front of a black flag inscribed with a message in Arabic.

"I say to the nonbelievers, as you bomb, you will be bombed. As you kill, you will be killed," said Umar Islam, 29, as he angrily wagged a finger at the camera, denouncing the U.S. and Britain for their role in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Palestinian territories.

Another defendant, Abdulla Ahmed Ali, 27, predicted waves of new attacks on the United States and Britain.

"We will take our revenge and anger, ripping amongst your people and scattering the people ... decorating the streets," he said.

Islam lambasted the British public, saying they deserved to suffer because they cared more about sports and television soap operas than the plight of Muslims.

## Historic Quebec City building burns down

**QUEBEC CITY (AP)** -- One of Quebec's most historic buildings has caught fire and collapsed. No injuries have been reported.

Witnesses said the fire Friday at the Quebec City Armoury was followed by an explosion.

Most of the building collapsed about two hours later, leaving only a brick wall and two towers at the main entrance.

Police say they do not know what caused the fire.

At least eight fire trucks and dozens of firefighters are battling the fire.

The building, which was built in 1884 and was under renovation, was home to a Canadian reserve unit and also contained a museum.

People look on as firefighters battle a blaze at one of Quebec City's most historic buildings on Friday April 4, 2008. AP





## Focus

## Chaplains salute each of the fallen

By SHARON COHEN  
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Chaplain Kevin Wainwright was preparing his Easter Sunday sermon in Iraq when there was a knock on his door.

The news was grim: 1st Lt. Phillip Neel was dead. The young officer and fellow West Point grad had been a regular at the chaplain's Sunday church services. Wainwright knew and admired him. Now he had to find the right words to honor him.

Wainwright chose the legend of Sir Galahad, King Arthur's noble knight, and the poetry of Alfred, Lord Tennyson to salute Neel in a memorial.

He spoke of his compassion, his devotion to his soldiers. But in trying to understand Neel's death, the chaplain also posed an agonizing question: "Why does it seem that the good guys are the first ones to fall?"

On Easter night, the sad milestone of 4,000 American deaths in the Iraq war was reached with an announcement by the U.S. military that four U.S. soldiers had been killed in a roadside bombing in Baghdad.

As the toll approached 4,000, Wainwright and hundreds of other military chaplains in Iraq and across America wrestled with hard questions constantly. These are the men and women who pray with the mortally wounded, who administer last rites on bomb-scarred roads, who sit at kitchen tables with grieving families back home.

Army chaplains such as Wainwright have been especially busy: Almost three-fourths of those who have died in Iraq were in the Army. Of the total lost in all services, more than 30 were just 18 years old; about 80 were older than 45, according to the military. Nearly 100 were women. A quarter of those who died were from just three states: California, Texas and New York.

But for every number, there is a name, and for every name, a husband or son, wife or daughter whose life is remembered, often by a chaplain.

"I'm the guy who knows all their stories," Wainwright says. "Of all the people in the battalion, the chaplain is the one who should know a little about everybody."

In 14 months in Iraq, Wainwright comforted countless grieving soldiers, composed handwritten notes to families and conducted memorials, including one for Neel held last year at a concrete-barricaded chapel.



An honor guard from Fort Rucker Ala., offloads the casket of U.S. Army Spec. Charles Jankowski from an aircraft as family and friends watch at the Panama City-Bay County International Airport in Panama City, Fla., on Friday, April 4, 2008. Jankowski died from wounds from an exploding improvised explosive device near Baghdad, Iraq, on Friday, March 28, 2008. He will be buried on Monday, April 7, 2008.

AP

"I remember them all," he says.

Military chaplains don't carry weapons, don't engage in combat, and yet they know as well as any the human cost of war.

Here are four of their stories:

■ ■ ■

When Kevin Wainwright arrived in Iraq in October 2006, it was his second deployment—he had served with the North Carolina National Guard two years earlier. This time he shipped out from Fort Hood, Texas.

The Army captain knew what the dangers were, but he was optimistic.

"I think we all go over there

"As a chaplain," he says, "you lose part of yourself that you're never going to get back."

As chaplain for the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, Wainwright, 38, sometimes joined soldiers on patrols. He also tended to the injured.

He was there to tell one wounded soldier after he regained consciousness that five of his comrades had died. Wainwright sat with him for hours, then gently told the survivor: "I'm glad you made it and you're here."

He also was there to clutch the wrist of another soldier dying from shrapnel wounds to the

look, walked by. The distressed soldier petted the golden Labrador and instantly brightened.

"I was trying to come up with some theologically significant interpretation of a life crisis," Wainwright says, "but that dog did more ministry in 10 seconds that I could do in a month."

■ ■ ■

Sometimes he arrived by foot, other times by helicopter, but Chaplain Jesus Perez always had the same feeling when he visited a morgue in Iraq.

"I had this sensation of emptiness," he says. "The place is so cold, even colder than you expect. You're losing somebody you probably know, or at least a brother in arms. But when you're there with your commander and rendering honor to the soldier who died, it's a solemn moment in the life of everyone in that room."

In 14 months, the Fort Hood chaplain prayed over 56 fallen soldiers.

After the salutes and prayers were over, Perez, 43, always lingered behind.

"I'd wait for everybody to leave, then I'd cry like a baby," he says. "I tried not to show my emotions in front of the other soldiers. I wanted to be strong for them. But when I was by myself, I cried. ... That was my way of coping with the situation."

As chaplain for the Army's 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Perez conducted several memorial ceremonies. He comforted the survivors, then took care of himself by talking with another chaplain or counselor.

"I had to protect myself from burnout," he says. "There comes a time after you hear so many are dead, you become frustrated, there's some anger. You ask yourself: 'When is this going to end?'"

But nothing he saw, he says, tested his faith.

"I believe God has his reasons," says Perez, who is a Messianic Jew. "Who am I to ask why? I know a lot of people have that question. I don't have that answer obviously. Since I don't have the answer, I don't even ask it."

In February, Perez received a poster he had ordered in Iraq that includes the names of 110 soldiers lost in his brigade. He plans to have it framed.

"It will go with me everywhere I go," he says. "It will go with me if I go back to Iraq. Some people may forget their names, but not this chaplain."

■ ■ ■

The Rev. David Sivret still lives

with nightmares, headaches and memories of his brush with a suicide bomber.

The Maine Army National Guard chaplain was severely injured in the Dec. 21, 2004, attack at a mess hall in Mosul, Iraq, that killed 22 people and wounded dozens more.

Sivret has vivid memories of the day: sitting down for a roast beef lunch, saying grace, seeing a bright flash, waking up on the floor—having been thrown 10 to 20 feet—next to a soldier dying of catastrophic head injuries.

"That's one of those dreams that haunts me," he says. "The floor was slippery with residue

See CHAPLAINS on Page 20

**"I'm the guy who knows all their stories. Of all the people in the battalion, the chaplain is the one who should know a little about everybody."**

believing ... we're going to be that battalion that doesn't lose anyone," Wainwright says.

That didn't happen.

Of the deaths in Iraq, more than 1 in 10 have come from sprawling Fort Hood, including some very personal losses for the chaplain: One was an airman he had given Communion to days before he was killed, one a soldier he had accompanied on patrol, another he had joined for dinner.

Wainwright was familiar with the rhythms of life and death as a Presbyterian minister serving churches in Wisconsin and the Carolinas. But war was different. "It's personal," he says. "They WANT to kill you."

And each soldier's death, Wainwright says, took a toll.

head. He prayed in a circle with his friends, then stepped aside so everyone could say goodbye.

Amid so much death, Wainwright remained steadfast in his beliefs.

"My faith is not a stack of cards—it's rock solid," he says. "That doesn't mean I didn't grieve and think this guy is never going to know what it's like to be married or be a father. ... It hits home, too. You have those fears yourself. What would a loss be like for your own family? But if you dwell on that, it makes you less effective as a chaplain."

Wainwright smiles as he recalls the time he had some unexpected help soothing souls.

One day, he was trying to counsel a soldier when Eddie, a bomb-sniffing dog with a pitiful



AP

Beverly Morris, bottom right, screams and collapses as the casket carrying her brother, U.S. Army Spec. Charles Jankowski, arrives at the Panama City-Bay County International Airport in Panama City, Fla., on Friday, April 4, 2008. Comforting Morris are her sister, Felicia Kirkland, left, and Jankowski's girlfriend, Karen Hainley.



## Life &amp; Style

## DNA tests may solve mystery of Anastasia

**WORCESTER, Mass. (AP)**—Answers to the mystery of what befell the heirs of the last czar of Russia nearly a century ago may rest behind locked laboratory doors in Moscow and New England.

DNA test results to be announced within months on bone fragments found in Russia last year could prove that none of Czar Nicholas II's family escaped execution in the Bolshevik Revolution—not even Anastasia, the teenage princess whose identity various women have claimed over the decades.

Evgeny Rogaev, who heads a genetic research team working in Moscow and at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, is not immune to the effect his work could have on how his fellow Russian citizens view that turbulent chapter in their history.

He keeps pictures of the royal family carefully tucked inside a folder near charts of DNA sequences, but does not display them. Likewise, he shields any sight of the remains from everyone except the other researchers, out of respect for whomever the remains represent.

"Murders occurred. Children were murdered," he said this week, choosing his words carefully. "I will not make a show of it. That is my ethics."

For Rogaev, a professor at UMass and Moscow State University, ensuring the accuracy of the DNA tests is paramount.

"In an expert work, it cannot be about emotions. It must be about collection of scientific evidences, and that is why this DNA is so powerful to study," he said.

Rogaev is reviewing the genetic material at the request of the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office as part of its reopened investigation of the deaths of the royal family.

Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra, 13-year-old Crown Prince Alexei, the prince's four older sisters and their four attendants were taken prisoner in 1917. Even though the czar already had abdicated his throne, their captors fatally shot all the prisoners on July 17, 1918, in a basement room of a house in the city of Yekaterinburg.

DNA testing determined skeletal remains unearthed from shallow graves in a nearby mining pit in 1991 were most likely those of the couple and three of their four daughters.

The daughters were believed to be 22-year-old Olga, 21-year-old Tatiana and 17-year-old Anastasia, although some people speculate the last set of remains belonged to the similarly sized 19-year-old Maria.

Researchers suspect the bone shards discovered last summer, burned and doused with acid, are those of Alexei and Maria. They were found in the area where one of the professed killers said their bodies had been destroyed.

The remains found in 1991 were reburied with honors in 1998 in the imperial-era capital of St. Petersburg. It was shadowed by doubts at the time, including from the Russian Orthodox Church and some Romanov relatives, over the authenticity of the genetic results.

Nevertheless, the church canonized the royal family in 2000.

Rogaev, who was called to help verify the remains' authenticity in 1997 and 1998, said he knows

many people with opinions that Americans have about their nedys, and says the DNA tests

"In science, what you conclude to be true comes from the results you find. When I see the results, I accept the results as the fact," he said.

No clear explanation exists about why the suspected remains of the prince and one of his sisters were destroyed with more violence than those of the czar, empress and three of their daughters.

Some researchers think that after shooting the family, the killers tried to destroy as much of their remains as possible, but ran out of time after starting to destroy two of the smallest bodies with fire and sulfuric acid. Some have said the killers thought monarchists might try to memorialize the burial place as a shrine if the bodies' locations were known.

The bone fragments were so badly damaged that Rogaev and other researchers first had to determine whether enough uncontaminated genetic material still existed for testing.

The delicate work proved that, indeed, useful DNA could be extracted from a very small amount of the material—a critical fact, since they wanted to preserve as much of the bone fragments as possible out of respect for the victims.

The researchers are comparing DNA from the recently discovered remains with those of Empress Alexandra, who was a granddaughter of Britain's Queen Victoria and a distant relative of Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II. The prince, whose DNA might offer important points of reference for comparison, has not provided DNA so far, but researchers are reviewing published information related to the family, Evgeny said.

Renowned forensic scientist Henry Lee endorsed Rogaev's approach and called the case a prime example of science settling questions about the past.

"It's an interesting project, and DNA is opening up a lot of new frontiers in solving crime and answering questions of history," said Lee, a former Connecticut public safety commissioner and founder of the forensic science program at the University of New Haven.

A representative of the Romanovs urged caution after the remains were found last summer. They have tried without success for years to persuade Russian authorities to declare Nicholas and his family victims of political repression.

"I will be deeply happy if the remains of (Alexei) and Maria have really been found," Nikolai Romanov, identified by Channel One as the head of the family, told the station by telephone from Switzerland. "But it is always necessary to treat such epochal events with caution."

Russia's Czar Nicholas II, seated second from left, Czarina Alexandra, center rear, and their family are shown in this undated file photo.

AP



## CHAPLAINS

From Page 19

and blood. People were screaming and hollering."

Sivret managed to stand, but he couldn't hear. He shouted some angry words—language, he says, "unbecoming a chaplain"—then collected himself and began praying with the wounded sprawled on the floor or on tables converted into stretchers.

The chaplain moved outside, unzipping body bags to examine dog tags, performing last rites to those who were Christian.

"I was running on adrenaline," he says. "I had a wicked headache. My left knee was shattered. My ribs were broken."

But Sivret didn't let on, fearing he'd be hospitalized. "I wasn't going to leave them," he says. "They were my soldiers."

National Guard members have accounted for 10 percent of the U.S. deaths in Iraq, including three men from Sivret's

unit, two of whom were killed in that blast.

One was Sgt. Lynn Poulin Sr. The chaplain had celebrated his marriage in Maine.

The other was Spc. Thomas Dostie, whose parents had been Sivret's classmates, prompting the Guardsman to teasingly tell the chaplain: "I know what you were like in high school."

Sivret presided at a memorial for the two, breaking down outside before he spoke.

He remained in Iraq a few more months, constantly encouraging the soldiers, telling them they were doing good. "I was trying to give them perspective and hope," he says. "You have to build them up because they have to go back out there again."

Sivret, now 52, returned to being the parish priest at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Calais, Maine, where Guard soldiers occasionally visit.

Sivret's hearing has returned and his ribs have healed, but the war remains part of his life.

In December, he accompanied a master sergeant to notify a family of a soldier's death. Seeing the father's pained face, knowing the death occurred in Mosul—the city where Sivret was injured—brought back a flood of memories.

"It stays with me," Sivret says. "You change. You're never the same."

■ ■ ■

Chaplain Irvine Bryer faced death before, 40 years ago in another war—in Vietnam.

The skinny kid who survived the jungles returned to a desert battlefield as a grandfather—and Army Reserve chaplain for the 3rd Medical Command.

In Iraq, Bryer dodged mortars, rockets and shots fired at his helicopter.

Still, he says, "Never did I feel there was anything to fear. There is a season for everything under the sun. That's what Ecclesiastes says. ...I take that now and have a for long time as an important part of who I am."

The lieutenant colonel and Baptist minister was based at Camp Victory, the main U.S. military headquarters. He flew more than 11,000 miles in helicopters, frequently visiting hospitals, chatting and praying with the wounded, bringing calm to the chaos.

One day he went to the morgue to pray for a soldier but had been given the wrong name. When a soldier there cursed him and said he should have gotten the identification right, Bryer agreed, and asked him to get the correct information.

Later, the soldier apologized but still admonished him: "Get it right next time."

Bryer wore a Vietnam patch on his right shoulder that didn't go unnoticed in Iraq. Once, he says, a soldier said to him: "You've done this before. You think it makes a difference?"

"I hope so," he replied.

Despite all the tragedy he saw, Bryer had joyful moments—his favorite involving a little boy.

While visiting a health clinic, he says, a little Iraqi boy pointed to the chaplain's shaved head. His mother said her son wanted to touch it.

"He rubbed it like it was a ball," Bryer says.

The chaplain pulled a Snicker's bar from his pocket, broke it in two and gave half to the boy. "We pushed it together, toasting like we're ready to have champagne. I bit in and was making all kinds of sounds like mmm-mm," Bryer says. "He was just sitting and laughing."

For Bryer, now 62, this fleeting moment of friendship offers promise for the future.

"I hope that when we're finished," he says, "this is what it's all about."

■ ■ ■

In February, Capt. Wainwright stood in a brick chapel at Fort Hood to honor fallen soldiers.

This was not a day to mourn 4,000 lost, but the eight men from his battalion who did not come home.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of those guys and feel some hurt in my heart," he says.

Wainwright spoke in a chapel with stained glass windows that depict cavalry soldiers. The names of those who've died in other wars are engraved on plaques.

Wainwright remembered each of the eight killed in Iraq by name, quoted from Psalm 20 and told mourners that these soldiers are "beckoning from the grave, demanding us to be the men they were ... good and honorable men."

The chaplain wears a memory bracelet with the name of one of them, Phillip Neel, who is buried in the West Point cemetery next to the Old Cadet chapel, where Wainwright used to worship.

"Every time I go back, even when I'm a decrepit old man," the chaplain says, "I'm going to go to the cemetery and look at the headstone, think and remember him, who he was, what he stood for."







# Docs: K-Fed lived it large in Las Vegas

By RAQUEL MARIA DILLON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Kevin Federline might play the part of the pauper to his pop princess ex-wife Britney Spears, but in Las Vegas he is king.

Federline spent more than \$43,000 on Las Vegas hotels, dining and shopping between May 2007 and January of this year, according to documents filed by Federline's attorney in his custody battle with Spears. The documents were released by the Superior Court on Thursday.

The tabs included \$1,445 for clothing at Gianni Versace, \$3,863 at TAO nightclub, and \$3,008 at the Hard Rock Beach Club.

He appears determined not to be branded a cheap tipper. At Scores strip club, he dropped a cool \$2,000 on a \$365 meal bill.

Meanwhile, his company, Gooseneck Productions, Inc., spent \$841,129 in 2007 while earning \$544,075, according to the documents.

The aspiring rapper also spent big on attempts to prop up his struggling music career.

Federline had \$74,102 in "music production" expenses, but earned only \$9,849 in "music income," according to the documents, which did not



Kevin Federline arrives for his birthday party at Pure nightclub at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas in this March 21, 2008, file photo.

elaborate.

The Superior Court commissioner dealing with the Federline-Spears custody battle has consistently awarded Federline attorneys fees.

In March, Spears' divorce

attorney, Stacy Phillips, argued that Federline's attorneys were overbilling, and her client should not be required to pay.

Phillips said that Federline tipped extravagantly. Indeed, a credit card statement showed a

\$1,100 tip for a \$2,782 bill at a Los Angeles restaurant.

Federline still owed \$343,834 in fees to his attorney, Mark Vincent Kaplan, when the documents released Thursday were filed in January.

Spears pays her ex-husband \$15,000 per month in child support for 2-year-old Sean Preston and 1-year-old Jayden James. Her monthly spousal support payments of \$20,000 ended in November.

The accounting statement mixes personal expenses, like \$1,500 per week for a nanny to care for the two toddlers, and business expenses, like \$2,500 per month for his manager.

The bulk of Federline's income came from his work on a Nationwide car insurance commercial that aired during the Super Bowl. Federline was paid \$377,000 for playing a fry cook who dreams of being a rap star, wearing fur coats and flashing huge diamond rings.

He earned \$15,000 for appearing at his 29th birthday party at Pure nightclub in Las Vegas, and \$50,000 for a series of appearances at Las Vegas clubs in December 2007.

Federline also pays \$18,228 per month in child support, rent and private school tuition for his two children from a previous relationship.

## Rapper Remy Ma plans NYC jail nuptials

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Rapper Remy Ma isn't letting jail derail her wedding plans. The Grammy-nominated artist aims to marry her fiancé, fellow rapper Papoose, at the city's Rikers Island jail while she awaits her sentencing for shooting a friend she suspected of stealing \$3,000, lawyer Ivan Fisher said.

"They're much in love," Fisher said. "They're very committed to each other, and they had intended to marry one way or another."

Remy Ma, whose real name is Remy Smith, was convicted last month of assault, weapon possession and attempted coercion in the July 2007 shooting after a party at a Manhattan nightclub.

The 26-year-old performer is being held without bail until her sentencing, set for April 23. She faces the possibility of up to 25 years in prison.

About 200 weddings are performed each year at Rikers Island, which offers chaplains and chapels, said city Department of Correction spokesman Stephen Morello. Only two guests will be permitted, and the couple won't be allowed to wear rings with protruding gems.

Remy Ma was nominated for a Grammy as part of the Terror Squad for the 2004 hit "Lean Back." She also has recorded with rap stars Busta Rhymes and Eminem.

Papoose's "Born To Win" was featured on the top-selling football video game "Madden NFL 06," and the music magazine Rolling Stone named him one of its "10 Artists to Watch" in 2006.

The Brooklyn rapper, whose real name is Shamele Mackie, also attracted attention with a track called "50 Shots," in which he vented his anger about a fatal 2006 New York City police shooting of an unarmed man who was hours away from getting married.



Grammy-nominated rapper Remy Ma exits Manhattan criminal court following her hearing, in this Dec. 5, 2007, file photo in New York.

## Naomi Campbell released on bail

**LONDON (AP)**—Naomi Campbell was released on bail Friday after a spat with a police officer at Heathrow Airport's troubled new Terminal 5, where one of her bags was lost.

Campbell, 37, left the airport police station just after midnight. London's Metropolitan Police said she was released pending further inquiries and told to report to a police station in late May.

The London-born supermodel was arrested late Thursday on suspicion of assaulting an officer after police were called to a disturbance at the airport. Since Terminal 5 opened last week, more than 28,000 bags have been separated from their owners.

Witnesses said Campbell was aboard a British Airways plane due to depart for Los Angeles when she became involved in a dispute because one of her bags had been lost. During the dispute, Campbell allegedly spit on the officer.

Campbell's spokeswoman, Annabel Fox, said Campbell was traveling to the U.S. to attend a memorial service and

had boarded the plane when she was told one of her two checked bags was missing.

British Airways "decided to resolve this by insisting she leave the flight and then called the police to forcibly eject her," Fox said.

Campbell has a history of assaulting assistants and employees.

In 2000, she pleaded guilty in Toronto to an assault charge for beating an assistant while making a film in 1998. Under an agreement with prosecutors, Campbell expressed remorse and was released without punishment or a criminal record.

In January 2007, Campbell pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault for throwing her cell phone at her maid in a dispute over a missing pair of jeans. She was ordered to do community service and attend a two-day anger-management program.

British model Naomi Campbell poses during a press conference at the "Berlin Fashion Week" in Berlin in this Jan. 28, 2008, file photo.



## Star wins 'Whiter Shade of Pale' appeal

**LONDON (AP)**—The lead singer of the British band Procol Harum won an appeals court judgment Friday awarding him the full royalties to the iconic hit, "A Whiter Shade of Pale."

Britain's Court of Appeal ruling for rock star Gary Brooker overturned a lower court decision granting the group's former organist 40 percent of the millions of dollars in royalties from the song.

The appeals court agreed Matthew Fisher, who played the haunting organ theme, was entitled to co-authorship but said he will receive no money from past or future royalties.

"For nearly three years this claim has been a great strain upon myself and my family. I believe the original trial was unfair and the results wrong," Brooker said. "I would hope that now, we can all get on with our lives."

Lord Justice John Mummery said Fisher was "guilty of excessive and inexcusable delay in asserting his claim."

Fisher, who quit the band in 1969 and is now a computer programmer in London, filed his claim to joint ownership nearly 40 years after the song was recorded and became one of the anthems of the 1967 "Summer of Love." The record has sold 10 million copies, and Rolling Stone magazine has ranked the song 57th on a list of the 500 greatest of all time.

Brooker argued that it was his idea to use the theme based on Bach's "Air on the G String" that Fisher played on the track, and that he was unable to make his case properly because Fisher did not tell him he was pursuing his legal claim.

Brooker, who still tours with the band, said he and lyricist Keith Reid wrote the song before Fisher joined the band in March 1967.

The two had called Fisher's earlier court victory a dangerous precedent, saying it meant any musician who had played on any recording in the past four decades could claim joint authorship.

The judge rejected Fisher's claim for an estimated \$2 million in back royalties.

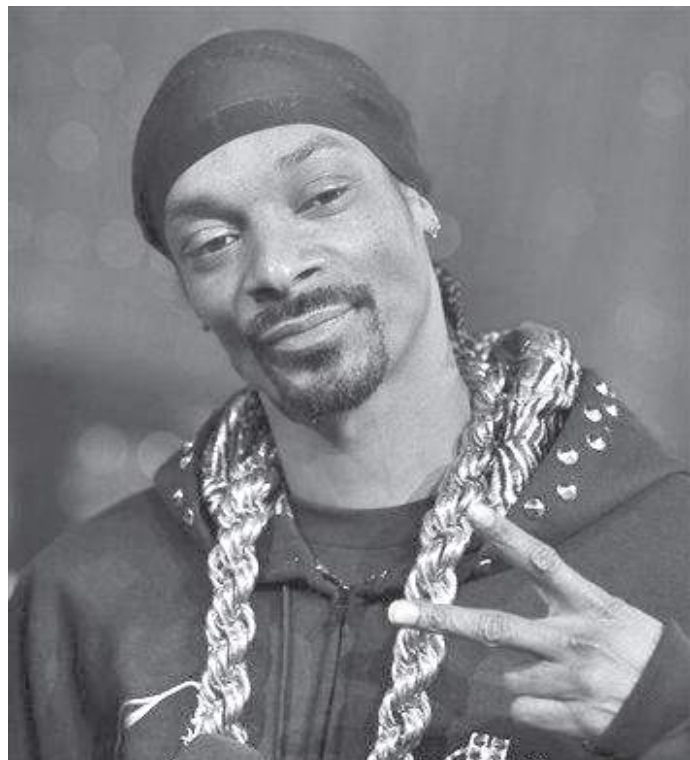
Mummery said the issue of who will pay legal costs will be decided later, as well as whether Fisher can appeal the decision to the House of Lords, Britain's highest court.

In December, a judge awarded the classically trained Fisher a 40 percent share in the copyright of the song, saying his organ solo was "a distinctive and significant contribution to the overall composition."

"A Whiter Shade of Pale," famous for its cryptic lyrics - "We skipped the light fandango, turned cartwheels 'cross the floor" - topped the British charts for five weeks in 1967 and was a top five hit in the U.S.



# UK challenges Snoop Dogg decision



**LONDON** (AP)—Britain is appealing a court's decision to allow Snoop Dogg into the country, the Border Agency said Friday. He was barred from Britain after he was arrested on charges of violent disorder at London's Heathrow Airport in 2006. But the hip-hop heavyweight successfully appealed the ban and received entry clearance from an asylum and immigration tribunal in January.

The Border Agency said Friday it would challenge the ruling at a hearing next week.

In March 2007, Snoop Dogg (real name: Cordozar Calvin Broadus Jr.) was forced to cancel a tour of Britain with fellow rap icon Sean "Diddy" Combs after

authorities denied him a visa.

That followed an incident in which Snoop Dogg and five others were arrested on charges of violent disorder and starting a brawl at Heathrow in which seven officers were injured. Trouble flared when some in his party were denied entry to British Airways' first-class lounge at the airport.

In April 2007, Snoop Dogg was refused entry into Australia, with then-Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews saying the rapper "doesn't seem the sort of bloke we want in this country."

A former associate of the Los Angeles gang the Crips, Snoop Dogg built his early career on recordings offering gritty details of gang life.

Rapper Snoop Dogg appears onstage during a taping of MTV's "Total Request Live" at the MTV Times Square Studios in this March 11, 2008, file photo in New York.

## Woman's 'benefits package' sidesteps matters of love

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been dating a woman in Phoenix—where we both lived—for the past three years. We were in an exclusive relationship, but not living together because I was going through a divorce when we met. Throughout our time together I have helped "Jackie" with rent and cash gifts.

I have since moved to California, and Jackie would like to come and live with me. I thought it would be nice, but a cohabitation agreement would be necessary because I have a lot of assets and she has very few.

After some discussion, she came up with an agreement, but I feel the benefits package she's asking for is too high. She's asking me to pay all living expenses, housing, food, health insurance, a new car with auto insurance and an allowance of \$3,000 a month.

I balked on this "deal" because it seems more like a rental agreement rather than a loving relationship. She maintains that she needs a "cushion" in case the relationship doesn't work out because she'll be leaving her job and friends behind.

My friends laugh when I tell them the terms of the arrangement. What are your thoughts?

WAITING IN CAPISTRANO

**DEAR WAITING:** If Jackie expects you to pay for everything, including health insurance and an allowance, it is plain that she won't be seeking employment and will be taking an early retirement when she goes to Capistrano. If the relationship does not work out, the consequences would affect her financially for the rest of her life.

Nowhere in your letter did you mention the word "marriage." While both of you may have reasons for wanting to remain single, if you love Jackie, wouldn't you want her to be taken care of if something should happen to you? Rather than gathering advice from friends, ask your lawyer what a fair and appropriate agreement would be under the circumstances.

**P.S.** It does seem that the guaranteed benefit package Jackie has in mind for herself is a bit "rich."

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband has four siblings, all adults with families of their own. A little more than a year ago, my father-in-law, "Carl," asked Mom for a divorce. That's when we learned that their relationship had been going downhill for several years.

All of the "kids," especially my husband, have embraced Mom and shunned Carl. They say terrible things about him and his new girlfriend, "Angie," whom they refuse to meet. We hardly see Carl anymore, and the few times he has come to our home for dinner, my husband has made it clear that Angie is not welcome.

I don't pretend to know how it feels to have your parents split up after 40 years. I try to be understanding and supportive to my husband and his family. I have kept my opinions to myself, but I am frustrated with all of them. I'm certain Carl waited to end his marriage until after all his children were old enough to understand. I feel they need to make some kind of move to get past this. Is there anything I can do?

KEEPING IT TO MYSELF IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR KEEPING IT:** No, there isn't. Your husband and his siblings are reacting emotionally to the breakup of their parents' marriage. Perhaps at a later date—after more time passes—they will come to accept it. That is, unless they perceive Angie as having caused the divorce.

I see nothing positive to be gained by putting yourself in the middle of this. Sometimes silence is golden.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)*

## Release of tapes in Beatles suit on hold

**MIAMI** (AP)—A company in a court fight with the Beatles has agreed not to release recordings purportedly made during Ringo Starr's first performance with the group until the case is resolved.

A federal judge on Friday approved the agreement between Apple Corps Ltd., the London-based group formed by the Beatles that helps guard their legacy, and Miami Lakes-based Fuego Entertainment, Inc.

The dispute stems from recordings the Fab Four apparently made in 1962 during a performance at the Star Club in Hamburg, Germany. Eight unreleased tracks are said to be among the recordings, including Paul McCartney singing Hank Williams' "Lovesick Blues" and McCartney and John Lennon singing "Ask Me Why."

Apple Corps claims the songs were taped without the band's consent and that Fuego and sister companies Echo-Fuego Music Group LLC and Echo-Vista Inc. have no right to distribute them.

Fuego's attorney Michael Joblove said the agreement was voluntary and that his clients claim they acquired the legal right to market the recordings.

"This is an injunction that was agreed to by our clients with no admission of liability to give the court time to consider the parties' claims regarding the ownership interests in these recordings," Joblove said.

New York-based attorney Paul LiCalsi, who represents Apple Corps, said the agreement "clearly reflects that there is no basis for Fuego's claims that they have a right to exploit the tapes."

## Actors Cage and Turner settle libel suit

**LONDON** (AP)—Nicolas Cage has settled a libel suit in a London court against Kathleen Turner, who falsely claimed in her autobiography that he had twice been arrested for drunken driving and had stolen a dog.

Neither of the stars attended the hearing at Britain's High Court, where Turner's lawyer, book publisher and the Daily Mail, which ran an excerpt, all apologized to Cage and offered to make a substantial donation to a charity of his choice.

Cage's lawyer Simon Smith

dismissed as "utter falsity" a section of Turner's book "Send Yourself Roses," describing the actors' experience working together on the set of the movie "Peggy Sue Got Married" in 1986.

In the passage Turner, 53, said her co-star, 44, was "arrested twice for drunk-driving and, I think, for stealing a dog. He'd come across a Chihuahua he liked and stuck it in his jacket."



Turner

Turner, Headline Publishing Group and Daily Mail publisher Associated Newspapers now accept that, owing to a mistake on Turner's part and despite the other defendants' publishing in good faith, the allegations were defamatory and false, Smith said.

All three agreed to pay Cage's legal costs and make the charitable donation, Smith said.

## DiCaprio buys 'green' NYC condo

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Every time he comes home, Leonardo DiCaprio is practicing what he preaches. The environmentally conscious actor has bought an apartment in Riverhouse, an eco-friendly building overlooking the Hudson River.

The purchase was confirmed on Friday by Christopher Daly, president of Sheldrake Organization, the developer of the Battery Park City complex. Occupancy is slated for this summer.

The 264-unit condominium glass tower overlooks the river and a park, and boasts low emission paints, a 24-hour fresh filtered air system, a water treatment facility and rotating solar panels.

DiCaprio seemingly also will have everything at his fingertips. The David Rockwell-designed high-rise features an indoor 50-foot lap pool, media cafe, fitness center, landscaped terrace - and dog spa.

The building also will house the City Bakery and a branch of the New York Public Library.

DiCaprio has served on the board of directors of the environmental organization Global Green USA. He also owns a hybrid car and had solar panels put on his Los Angeles home.

The 33-year-old actor has won Oscar nominees for "The Aviator" and "Blood Diamond." He is currently filming



Leonardo DiCaprio attends a promotional event for a bank in Hong Kong in this March 23, 2008, file photo.

"Shutter Island," directed by Martin Scorsese.

An e-mail sent to his publicist was not immediately returned.



# CLASSIFIED ADS

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

#### Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

#### Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

2-bedroom apartment with laundry facility. Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau behind Hakubotan. \$400/mo. Tel:483-1974

### MISCELLANEOUS

Bud's Bar Boogie. Every Fri. & Sat. Starting @ 0930pm until. DJ w/ Sam Joyner. First Lady drink free after 0930pm

### LOST PASSPORT

Name : Jin Xia, Wei  
Passport No. : 4658901  
D.O.B : May 3, 1975  
Contact No. : 285-9225

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**1 HOUSEWORKER (FSUN 0071)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided by employer; food provided by employer & medical. Contact: Barbara Yamada @235-2624.

**1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (FSUN 0072)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

sation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

**1 MECHANIC (FSUN 0073)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

**2 MASON (FSUN 0074)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

**1 ELECTRICIAN (FSUN 0075)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

**1 CARPENTER (FSUN 0076)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable; workers compensation & insurance. Contact: RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction @235-8778.

Subscribe to CNMI's First  
Daily Newspaper

235-NEWS

The Saipan Tribune now offers

# Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

3-LINER AD

\$25

3-LINER AD  
W/ PHOTO

\$45

5-LINER AD

\$35

5-LINER AD  
W/ PHOTO

\$55

Get results. Advertise now!

Call now at 235-2769  
for more details.

Hafa Adai!  
**Saipan Tribune**  
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER





# Owings strikes out nine as Arizona beat Rockies



Diamondbacks starting pitcher Micah Owings delivers a pitch to Colorado Rockies batter Troy Tulowitzki in the first inning of a Major League Baseball game in Denver on Friday, April 4, 2008.



## DENVER

(AP)—Arizona right-hander Micah Owings struck out a career-best nine batters and allowed just one run and two hits over 6 2-3 splendid innings, and the Diamondbacks pounded the struggling Colorado Rockies 8-1 on Friday.

Chad Qualls and Juan Cruz completed the two-hitter, and Mark Reynolds homered, doubled and drove in three runs for the Diamondbacks. Owings (1-0) at one point retired 17 straight batters.

## Astros 4, Cubs 3

In Chicago, J.R. Towles homered in the fourth, Miguel Tejada added a go-ahead triple in the eighth and the Astros sent the Cubs to their third loss in four games.

Towles' two-run drive off Rich Hill gave Houston a 2-0 lead, and that held until Geovany Soto's tying, two-run single in the seventh. Houston immediately got two runs in the eighth off Jon Lieber (0-1). Mark DeRosa homered in the ninth off Jose Valverde, who earned his first save of the year after leading Major League Baseball last season with 47 for Arizona.

## Brewers 13, Giants 4

In Milwaukee, Bill Hall homered twice and had a career-high six RBIs, leading the Brewers to a rout of San Francisco in their home opener.

Prince Fielder went 3-for-4 with three runs scored and three RBIs, and Gabe Kapler drove in a pair of runs. The Brewers have won three of their first four games after taking two out of three from Chicago in their season-opening series at Wrigley Field.

## White Sox 8, Tigers 5

At Detroit, A.J. Pierzynski drove in five runs with three hits, including a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the seventh inning that led the Chicago White Sox over the Tigers 8-5.

Detroit, the only winless team in Major League Baseball, is 0-4 for the first time since the Tigers dropped their first nine games in 2003, when they lost an American League-record 119 times.

Ivan Rodriguez had three hits and drove two runs for Detroit, which was swept by Kansas City at home to start the season. Carlos Quentin also homered for Chicago.

## Wagner grabs lead in rain-delayed Houston Open

**HUMBLE, Texas** (AP)—Johnson Wagner shot a 3-under 69 on Friday to take the outright lead in the Houston Open before an afternoon storm delayed play for an hour and 45 minutes.

More rain came later and the second round was suspended at 7:25 p.m. with 36 players still on the course.

Wagner was safely in at 12 under, three ahead of Charley Hoffman (70) and Mathew Goggin, who shot a 64 to continue the remarkable history of Australians at the tournament.

Chad Campbell was at 7 under after matching Goggin's 64 in the breezy, sunny morning.

Defending champion Adam Scott, who shared the first-round lead with Wagner after they set the course record with 9-under 63s, had five bogeys and a double in a 76.

Scott bogeyed No. 2, his first at the Tournament Course at Redstone in 56 holes dating to last year's second round. He was playing the fifth hole when play was halted just before 2 p.m.

The round resumed at 3:34 p.m., with the course softened, and the temperature significantly cooler. Scott missed the green with his tee shot on the par-3 ninth, then drove into the water on the 11th to slip to 6 under. He birdied 15 and 16 before finishing bogey-double bogey.

Phil Mickelson beat the bad

weather and shot a 68 on Friday, but he was eight behind the leader, who's looking for his first victory in 45 career starts.

The 28-year-old Wagner admits he'll have to control his emotions over the weekend as he tries to win a trip to the Masters.

"You have to use it to your advantage," Wagner said. "Nerves don't have to be a bad thing. They can always be a good thing."

Wagner was in the second group to tee off Friday morning and he moved to 12 under on his opening nine.

He got up and down from a greenside bunker on the par-5 fourth, sank a 6-footer for birdie on the 5th and added another birdie on the par-5 eighth, the third-easiest hole during the first round.

He sliced his drive into the water on the par-4 11th and bogeyed, then got the stroke back with a birdie on 13.

Six Australians have won eight Houston Opens, including Scott last year and Stuart Appleby in 2006. Appleby was the runner-up to Scott in 2007.

Goggin offered nothing more than a tongue-in-cheek theory on why Australians have had so much success here.

"Maybe we're just better on courses you don't have to think around," he said. "You just smash it and go find it. You dumb it down for us and we do all right."



## Stephen Curry, LeBron James meet again

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (AP)—

The bus carrying LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers pulled into the arena at the same time Stephen Curry and his father arrived Wednesday night.

And despite all of King James' magazine covers, the commercials and NBA accomplishments, the baby-faced Davidson star was getting all the attention.

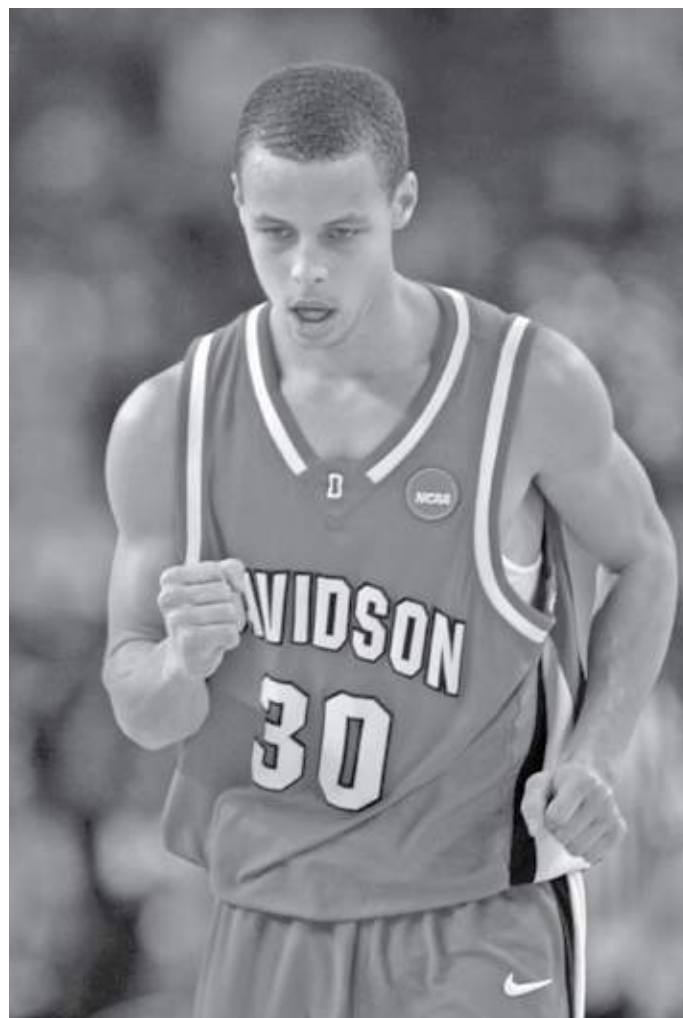
Returning the favor after James watched Curry score 33 points in Davidson's upset of Wisconsin last week in the NCAA tournament, Curry was on hand to watch James and the Cavaliers beat the Charlotte Bobcats 118-114.

"It was kind of a shock when I saw him up in Detroit," said Curry before the game while wearing a pair of James' line of shoes. "The timing of him having a game in Charlotte right after the tournament is kind of cool."

Curry and James talked briefly in the tunnel as they entered the arena together. Curry said James complimented him and his teammate, point guard Jason Richards, for their magical run. Davidson, the small, liberal-arts school 20 miles north of Charlotte, was a 3-pointer away from reaching the Final Four for the first time.

"He's good, a very good basketball player," said James, who scored 29 points before fouling out. "He's a very good kid, too. I think it's exciting for him, what he was able to do for that university. It put that university on the map."

Curry immediately started getting the celebrity treatment when he walked into the arena.



Davidson's Stephen Curry celebrates after a shot in the second half of the NCAA Midwest Regional basketball final against Kansas on Sunday, March 30, 2008, in Detroit.

Bobcats forward Gerald Wallace patted him on the back and congratulated him. Curry then was doing an interview with the Cavaliers' television network when Cleveland coach Mike Brown barged in, telling him how his 13-year-old son Elijah was a big fan of him.

"He was fun to watch," Brown said. "My son enjoyed him and

I think he can be a favorite for young kids because, and this is not offensive, it's good, he looks so boyish in his face."

It's been part of a whirlwind three weeks for the sweet-shooting Curry, who burst onto the national scene by scoring 30, 40, 33 and 25 points in four NCAA tournament games. But the sophomore couldn't get an

open look in the closing seconds in the Midwest Regional final, and Richards missed a game-winning 3-point attempt at the buzzer in Kansas' 59-57 win Sunday night.

"Not going to the gym for practice is kind of weird," Curry said. "But it's kind of sunk in what we did and I'm trying to get back into the normal flow of life."

Nothing seemed normal Wednesday night, as people lined up to congratulate him. After he walked up the aisle after doing a TV interview on the floor in the first half, the fans around stood and cheered. There was another loud cheer when he was shown on the video board late in the game.

"This is crazy," Curry said as he walked back to his seat after signing an autograph for a little kid.

Curry's become a bona fide college star, and James dismissed questions that Curry will have trouble at the NBA level because of his slight frame.

"You look at a guy like Kevin Martin who's in our league. He's 20-plus points a game. He's very good. He's not big, he's not the fastest guy, it doesn't matter," James said. "If you can play the game of basketball, you can be in this league. He definitely knows how to do that."

James then perked up when he was told Curry was born in Akron, Ohio, James' hometown. Curry's father, former NBA sharpshooter Dell Curry, was playing for the Cavaliers when Stephen was born.

"I didn't know that," James said. "That's why he's good."



# Iguodala helps Sixers clinch berth

**ATLANTA (AP)—**Andre Iguodala scored 30 points and Andre Miller had 23 to help the Philadelphia 76ers wrap up their first playoff spot in three years with a 109-104 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Friday night.

Philadelphia, which stopped the Hawks' five-game winning streak, never trailed after Miller's layup tied it at 67 with 3:09 left in the third.

Joe Johnson led Atlanta with 32 points, but he fell down and lost the ball on what appeared to be a damp floor while dribbling with 1:36 remaining.

Iguodala, who also had 10 assists, drove the length of the floor for a layup banked high off the backboard that put Philadelphia up 103-96.

The Sixers have won two straight and 21 of 28. The teams will play again today in Philadelphia, where the Sixers are 13-2 in the second game of back-to-backs.

## Jazz 90, Spurs 64

At Utah, Mehmet Okur had 17 points and 16 rebounds and host Utah ended San Antonio's eight-game winning streak.

The Jazz held the defending NBA champion Spurs without a point for almost the first 4 minutes of the fourth quarter.

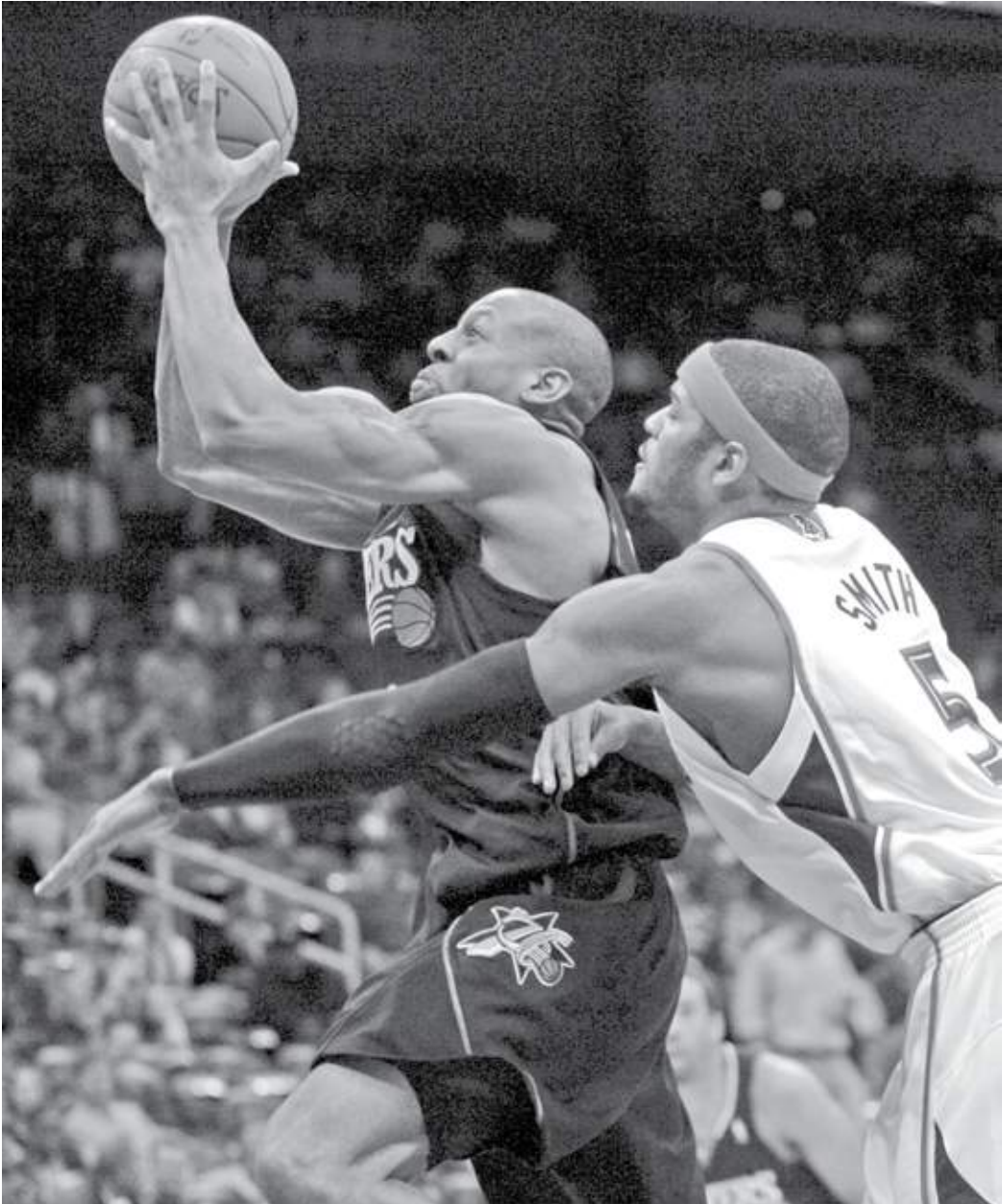
Utah dominated the Spurs the same way San Antonio controlled the Jazz in the Western Conference finals last spring, winning easily in five games.

Deron Williams had his 50th double-double of the season with 16 points and 11 assists, opening the fourth quarter with a high alley-oop to Andrei Kirilenko to start a 13-0 run for the Jazz. Kirilenko finished with 10 points and six assists, and Carlos Boozer added 16 points and flustered Spurs star Tim Duncan all night.

Duncan finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds, but sat most of the fourth quarter as the Jazz ran away with it.

## Warriors 117, Grizzlies 86

At Memphis, Andris Biedrins



Philadelphia 76ers' Andre Iguodala, left, goes to the basket defended by Atlanta Hawks forward Josh Smith during the first half of a basketball game Friday April 4, 2008, in Atlanta.

had 21 points and 17 rebounds, and Golden State climbed with in a half-game of eighth place in the Western Conference with a victory over the Grizzlies.

GoldenState, which snapped a two-game losing streak, had six players in double figures. Monta Ellis scored 19 points, while Kelenna Azubuike added 15 points and 10 rebounds. Stephen Jackson finished with 14 points, Marco Belinelli had 13 and Brandan Wright scored 10.

The Warriors are a half-game behind idle Denver for the final playoff spot in the West.

Biedrins shot 8 of 11 from the field and grabbed five offensive rebounds.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 23 points, while Hakim Warrick finished with 13 and Kyle Lowry had 12.

## Wizards 109, Heat 95

At Washington, Caron Butler scored 29 points and the Wizards beat Miami to clinch a playoff spot for the fourth straight season.

It's the first time the team has qualified for the playoffs in four consecutive seasons since it

made five straight appearances from 1983-88.

## Bobcats 105, Raptors 100

At Toronto, Jason Richardson scored 27 points and Earl Boykins converted a three-point play after stealing the ball from T.J. Ford in the final minute of Charlotte's victory over the Raptors.

Chris Bosh had 23 points for the Raptors, who could have clinched a playoff berth with a victory. Toronto could still seal a spot if New Jersey loses or Washington wins.

# Hansbrough selected player of the year

**SANANTONIO (AP)—**Tyler Hansbrough, who topped the Atlantic Coast Conference in scoring and rebounding and led North Carolina to the Final Four, was selected The Associated Press college basketball player of the year Friday.

The 6-foot-9 junior forward averaged 22.8 points, the highest mark by a North Carolina player since 1970, and 10.3 rebounds for the Tar Heels (36-2), who were ranked No. 1 for all but six weeks this season and were the overall top seed for the NCAA tournament.

Hansbrough was presented the award the day before the Tar

Heels play Kansas in the second game of the Final Four.

He received 56 votes from the 72-member national media panel that selects the weekly Top 25. Freshman Michael Beasley of Kansas State had 15 votes and junior guard Chris Douglas-Roberts of Memphis got one in the voting conducted before the NCAA tournament. Hansbrough and Beasley both were unanimous selections as first-team All-Americans.

"I am very honored to get this award because there are a lot of good players in college basketball, and I just feel privileged to be in a situation with the coaches and players I am," Hansbrough said.

Hansbrough lived up to his advance billing this season - he was one vote shy of being a unanimous pick for the pre-season All-America team.

Known for his all-out hustle and physical style of play, Hansbrough led the Tar Heels with 57 steals and was credited with drawing 42 charges from opponents. He was chosen the MVP of the ACC tournament and the NCAA's East Regional, where he led the Tar Heels to their 17th Final Four appearance.

"The No. 1 goal is getting wins here; that's the most important thing," he said. "Individual awards are great, but the national championship is the ultimate goal."

Hansbrough, second on the North Carolina career scoring list with 2,151 points, 139 behind Phil Ford, joins Michael Jordan (1984) and Antawn Jamison (1998) as national players of the year from North Carolina. The last two players to lead the ACC in scoring and rebounding in the same season, Tim Duncan of Wake Forest in 1997 and Jamison, were national players of the year.

Players from the Atlantic Coast Conference have won the award eight times in the last 14 years.

Freshman Kevin Durant of Texas was the player of the year last season. He was the second overall pick in the NBA draft.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

EASTERN CONFERENCE					Toronto 6, Boston 3 Minnesota 4, Kansas City 3 St. Louis 5, Washington 4 Oakland 6, Cleveland 3 L.A. Dodgers 7, San Diego 1 Texas 11, L.A. Angels 6		
ATLANTIC DIVISION							
Atlantic Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
y-Boston	60	15	.800				
x-Philadelphia	39	37	.513	21 1/2			
x-Toronto	38	38	.500	22 1/2			
New Jersey	31	45	.408	29 1/2			
New York	20	56	.263	40 1/2			
Southeast Division							
y-Orlando	47	28	.627				
x-Washington	39	37	.513	8 1/2			
Atlanta	35	41	.461	12 1/2			
Charlotte	29	47	.382	18 1/2			
Miami	13	63	.171	34 1/2			
Central Division							
y-Detroit	54	21	.720				
x-Cleveland	42	34	.553	12 1/2			
Indiana	32	44	.421	22 1/2			
Chicago	30	45	.400	24			
Milwaukee	26	49	.347	28			
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Southwest Division							
x-New Orleans	53	22	.707				
San Antonio	52	24	.684	1 1/2			
Houston	51	25	.671	2 1/2			
Dallas	47	29	.618	6 1/2			
Memphis	20	56	.263	33 1/2			
Northwest Division							
Utah	51	26	.662				
Denver	46	29	.613	4			
Portland	38	38	.500	12 1/2			
Minnesota	19	56	.253	31			
Seattle	17	59	.224	33 1/2			
Pacific Division							
LA Lakers	52	24	.684				
Phoenix	51	25	.671	1			
Golden State	46	30	.605	6			
Sacramento	35	40	.467	16 1/2			
LA Clippers	23	53	.303	29			
x-clinched playoff spot							
y-clinched division							
Yesterday's Games							
Charlotte 105, Toronto 100							
Philadelphia 109, Atlanta 104							
Washington 109, Miami 95							
Detroit 106, New Jersey 87							
Golden State 117, Memphis 86							
New Orleans 118, New York 110							
Utah 90, San Antonio 64							
Indiana 105, Milwaukee 101							
Phoenix 117, Minnesota 88							
L.A. Lakers 112, Dallas 108							
Houston 79, Seattle 66							
MLB STANDINGS							
AMERICAN LEAGUE							
East							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
Tampa Bay	2	1	.667	—			
Baltimore	2	1	.667	—			
Boston	3	2	.600	—			
New York	2	2	.500	1/2			
Toronto	2	2	.500	1/2			
Central							
Kansas City	3	1	.750	—			
Chicago	2	2	.500	1			
Cleveland	2	2	.500	1			
Minnesota	2	3	.400	1 1/2			
Detroit Tigers	0	4	.000	3			
West							
Los Angeles	3	2	.600	—			
Seattle	2	2	.500	1/2			
Texas	2	2	.500	1/2			
Oakland	2	3	.400	1			
NATIONAL LEAGUE							
East							
New York	2	1	.667	—			
Washington	3	2	.600	—			
Philadelphia	2	2	.500	1/2			
Florida	2	2	.500	1/2			
Atlanta Braves	1	3	.250	1 1/2			
Central							
Milwaukee	3	1	.750	—			
St. Louis	3	1	.750	—			
Pittsburgh	2	2	.500	1			
Cincinnati	2	2	.500	1			
Houston	2	3	.400	1 1/2			
Chicago	1	3	.250	2			
West							
Los Angeles	3	1	.750	—			
San Diego	3	2	.600	1/2			
Arizona	2	2	.500	1			
San Francisco	1	3	.250	2			
Colorado Rockies	1	3	.250	2			
Yesterday's Games							
Chicago White Sox 8, Detroit 5							
Milwaukee 13, San Francisco 4							
Houston 4, Chicago Cubs 3							
Arizona 8, Colorado 1							
Baltimore 7, Seattle 4							
Tampa Bay 13, New York Yankees 4							
Philadelphia 8, Cincinnati 4							
Florida 5, Pittsburgh 4							
					Johnson Wagner 63 69 132		
					Mathew Goggin 71 64 135		
					Charley Hoffman 65 70 135		
					Chad Campbell 73 64 137		
					Lucas Glover 69 69 138		
					Robert Garrigus 71 67 138		
					Jose Maria Olazabal 69 70 139		
					Ben Crane 74 65 139		
					Adam Scott 63 76 139		
					Charlie Wi 71 69 140		
					Bubba Watson 68 72 140		
					K.J. Choi 74 66 140		
					Phil Mickelson 72 68 140		
					Jeff Quinney 72 68 140		
					Kevin Sutherland 70 70 140		
					John Merrick 71 69 140		
					Martin Laird 69 71 140		
					Anders Hansen 69 71 140		
					Billy Mayfair 72 68 140		
					Brett Quigley 68 72 140		
					Geoff Ogilvy 67 73 140		
					Stuart Appleby 70 70 140		
					Harrison Frazar 72 69 141		
					Shane Bertsch 72 69 141		
					John Rieggier 71 70 141		
					Davis Love III 69 72 141		
					Steve Elkington 67 74 141		
					Scott Sterling 70 71 141		
					Kevin Streelman 72 69 141		
					Craig Kanada 70 71 141		
					Ben Curtis 69 72 141		
					Frank Lickliter II 75 67 142		
					Ryan Armour 73 69 142		
					Fred Couples 73 69 142		
					Tim Herron 72 70 142		
					Joe Ogilvie 74 68 142		
					Rod Pamplng 70 72 142		
					Pat Perez 69 73 142		
					Jeff Overton 71 71 142		
					Steve Stricker 66 76 142		
					Robert Allenby 75 68 143		
					Shaun Micheel 71 72 143		
					Bart Bryant 69 74 143		
					Brett Wetterich 73 70 143		
					Jeev M. Singh 73 70 143		
					Michael Allen 72 71 143		
					Charles Howell III 71 72 143		
					Mark Hensby 70 74 144		
					Nathan Green 74 70 144		
					Kevin Na 76 68 144		
					J.L. Lewis 72 72 144		
					Fredrik Jacobson 72 72 144		
					Y.E. Yang 71 73 144		
					Kenneth Ferrie 75 69 144		
					Justin Bolli 74 70 144		
					Steve Marino 71 73 144		
					Briny Baird 67 77 144		
					Aaron Baddeley 72 72 144		
					Justin Leonard 68 76 144		
					Padraig Harrington 71 73 144		
					Vaughn Taylor 75 70 145		
					Brandt Jobe 72 73 145		
					Angel Cabrera 75 70 145		
					Jon Mills 72 73 145		
					Matt Jones 72 73 145		
					Steve Allan 73 72 145		
					Jesper Parnevik 69 76 145		
					Trevor Immelman 73 72 145		
					Tripp Isenhour 74 72 146		
					Roland Thatcher 72 74 146		
					Brad Adamonis 73 73 146		
					Jeff Maggert 72 75 147		
					Anthony Kim 75 72 147		
					Tag Ridings 75 72 147		
					J.P. Hayes 73 74 147		
					Ken Duke 71 76 147		
					Scott McCarron 73 74 147		
					Hunter Mahan 72 75 147		
					Paul Goydos 74 73 147		
					Rich Beem 71 77 148		
					Cody Freeman 74 74 148		
					Peter Lonard 74 74 148		
					Jason Bohn 74 74 148		
					Kevin Stadler 75 74 149		
					Patrick Sheehan 77 72 149		
					Richard Johnson 72 77 149		
					Bo Van Pelt 73 76 149		
					Alex Cejka 78 72 150		
					Dustin Johnson 73 77 150		
					Andrew Parr 80 70 150		
					Louis Oosthuizen 75 75 150		
					Cameron Beckman 73 77 150		
					Troy Matteson 74 76 150		
					John Rollins 79 72 151		
					Chris Stroud 78 73 151		
					Bill Haas 76 75 151		
					Eric Axley 75 78 153		
					Mathias Gronberg 77 76 153		
					Andres Romero 75 78 153		
					Jose Coceres 78 77 155		
					Olin Browne 74 82 156		
					Blaine McCallister 85 74 159		
					Michael Campbell 81 83 164		
					By The Associated Press		



# The Week in Sports

## Lawn and table netters share spotlight



JON PEREZ

Eli Torgeson poses with his son Carsten during the awards ceremony of last month's 19th Tagaman Triathlon at the beach side of the Pacific Islands Club.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the 9th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament pose for a group photo after the games held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan's Jean Shi, center, poses with Marianas Table Tennis Association president Steve Lim, left, and Alfred Yue.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan's Su Yong Dong, center, poses with Marianas Table Tennis Association president Steve Lim, left, and Alfred Yue.



JON PEREZ

Meiko Carey runs along Beach Road in last month's 19th Tagaman Triathlon.



JON PEREZ

Ji Hoon Heo eyes the ball as he prepares to make a forehand return in this file photo taken in the Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament in February at the American Memorial Park Tennis Courts.



Thea Minor makes a forehand return in this file photo taken in last year's North Pacific Qualifying on Saipan.

JON PEREZ



JON PEREZ

Nicolas Villagomez of the Bank of Saipan Red Sox touches home plate in their Majors division game against the Athletics last Wednesday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.



An O'lAces batter waits for the pitch of a Survivors pitcher in their Majors division game in the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

JON PEREZ

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Lawn and table tennis players shared the spotlight for the past week winning their respective events on Saipan and Tinian.

Ji Hoon Heo led eight other division winners in last week's Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Championships held yesterday at the PIC tennis courts.

Heo defeated Peter Loyola, 6-3, 6-3, to successfully defend his men's open title while Thea Minor won the women's open after going undefeated in the round robin play without dropping a set.

Joining Heo and Minor in the winner's circle are Chris Cajigan and Emily Jones (boys' and girls' 9-and-under); Christian Miller and Thecel Minor (boys' and girls' 13-and-under); Lope Padilla and Matty Buenaventura (men's and women's 4.0).

Tinian table tennis players once again reasserted their dominance beating teams from neighboring Guam and Saipan to win the 9th Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Tinian A's Mark Ma and brothers Luke and Robin Lu lost only four games in 40 head-to-head matches against two teams from Saipan, Guam, and their sister team, Tinian B, en route to winning the team competition of the tournament.

Six teams were crowned champions in different age groups in the boys and girls division of the 2008 Spring Break Youth Volleyball Festival at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Brotherhood and Powerpuffs topped the 18-and-under division, while Umangs won the boys' Under-12 and -14 age groups with Bwii Bwii and Hilitai duplicated the feat in the girls' side.

Eli Torgeson and Mieko Carey continued with their amazing run in the multi-sport scene finishing strong in the 2008 XTERRA Guam. Torgeson finished second

overall to 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship and 19th Tagaman Triathlon winner Andrew Noble while Carey came in fourth behind the Top 3 finishers to claim the women's crown.

Other Saipan triathletes that competed in XTERRA Guam were Butch Sublemente (3:02:13), Russ Quinn (3:06:22), and Kevin Carey (3:15:17).

No Fear and YoYo's won the 2008 Indoor Volleyball Winter League titles beating separate opponents at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

No Fear, which enjoyed a twice-to-beat advantage after going undefeated in the double-elimination playoff round, suffered a 25-21, 17-25, 7-15 loss to Fanians in Game 1 but recovered with a 25-20, 23-25, 15-9 triumph in the rubber.

In the women's division, YoYo's squeezed out a 25-15, 23-25, 15-12 victory against pennant winners Pikan Gaga.

Organizers of the 2008 Micronesian Basketball Tournament decided to cancel the scheduled event in Kolonia, Pohnpei this year since only three island nations committed to field their respective teams.

Only Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Guam agreed to participate. Pohnpei and Guam are the only teams that will be competing in the men's and women's divisions, while Kosrae will only send a men's team.

Chuuk, Yap, CNMI, Nauru, and Kiribati have already informed Tobin about their inability to send teams to the competition.

Andy Nepail led his team to win the coveted yellow Hawaiian jacket in the Inaugural Dan Hughes Memorial Tournament of Fools Golf Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Course east course.

Nepail, who won the 2007 season-ending RGA Cup in December last year, teamed up with Richard Pierce, Alex S. Sablan, and Dan Harding to win the tournament, which is held in memory of former Coffee Care owner Dan Hughes.



JON PEREZ

A Shell Marianas Suns pitcher warms up in their game against the PTI Dolphins in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of YoYo's celebrate their win in the women's division of the Indoor Volleyball Winter League after beating Pikan Gaga in last Monday's finals at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.





## Owings strikes out nine as Arizona beat Rockies

Arizona right-hander Micah Owings struck out a career-best nine batters and allowed just one run and two hits over 6 2-3 splendid innings, and the Diamondbacks pounded the struggling Colorado Rockies 8-1 on Friday.

25

# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Lawn and table netters share spotlight

Lawn and table tennis players shared the spotlight for the past week winning their respective events on Saipan and Tinian.

27



28 SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Eligibility issue is now on PGC's hands

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Pacific Games eligibility issue rule is now on the Pacific Games Council's executive committee's hands whether it would follow the recommendations made by the Charter Review Committee or still honor the rule used during last year's Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa.

This was the announcement made by Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White during NMAA's monthly meeting on Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

White said the CRC, of which he is a member, met during last month's Oceania National Olympic Committee meeting held in Fiji

where they agreed, in a 3-2 vote, of using the old eligibility rules.

White said the CRC were given two choices on which rule to follow in future Pacific Games. First was only allowing U.S. citizens or citizens born in the island they are representing and the other was the pre-Apia rule allowing non-citizens to join in the competitions.

He added the executive board is expected to meet sometime this month to decide on their recommendation of going back to the old eligibility rule and the scrapping of the current ruling allowing only citizens of competing island nations to participate.

The CRC is proposing to return to the old eligibility rule before the current ruling was adopted in 2005. The PCG amended the Pa-

cific Games eligibility ruling in the charter allowing citizens of member nations to compete in the regional Pacific Games and Pacific Mini Games.

The CNMI is one of the island nations that were affected by the new eligibility rule after it was unanimously passed during a PGC meeting in 2005. The CNMI have athletes who are non-U.S. citizens but are longtime residents or alien workers.

The 21-member nation PGC had met several times last year in Apia, Samoa to discuss and review several proposed amendments of the eligibility rule. PGC president Vidhya Lakan of Fiji created the CRC in order to study several recommendations for the eligibility ruling.

David Tupou of Tonga is the CRC chairman with White, the Cook Islands' Tina Brown, Papua New Guinea's Sir John Dawanincura, and New Caledonia's Charles Cali as members.

This will be a welcome news for the CNMI if the PGC executive committee abides by CRC's recommendations since it would allow tennis stars Kana Aikawa and Ji Hoon Heo, and the 6th Micronesian Games gold-medal winning table tennis team to compete again in future Games.

Aikawa is a Japanese by birth but is a Canadian citizen who polished her tennis skills in the CNMI while Heo, the current top junior player, is a Korean who also honed his skills on Saipan under the guidance of coach Jeff Race. The table tennis team, meanwhile, are mostly composed of nonresident workers.



Athletes from various schools will once again take center stage on April 14 when Northern Marianas Athletics begins its preliminary trials for next month's 4th Annual McDonald's All-Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai track facility inside the Susupe Sports Complex.

JON PEREZ

## NMA begins McDonald's All-Schools preliminary trials

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics begins its preliminary trials for next month's 4th Annual McDonald's All-Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai track facility inside the Susupe Sports Complex.

The events for the 10- and 8-and-under are 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1,500m runs, 4x100m and 4x400m relays, long jump, and softball throw while the 12-and-under will have 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1,500m runs, 3,000m steeplechase, 4x100m and 4x400m relays, long jump, and javelin throw.

The trials will begin on April 14 with the elementary schools of

Dandan, Garapan, Kagman, and Tanapag join Whispering Palms School and Calvary Christian Academy for the preliminaries in the 100m, 200m, and 1,500m runs, long jump, and the 4x100m relay.

On April 15 it will be the turn of the elementary schools of Koblerville, Oleai, San Antonio, and William S. Reyes, along with Saipan Community School and Grace Christian Academy to take the field.

While on April 16 it will be the chance of students from Seventh Day Adventist, Mt. Carmel School, Saipan International School, and the elementary schools of San Vicente and Gregorio T. Camacho to showcase their skills.

From April 21 to 23 preliminaries in the 400m and 800m runs, 4x400m relay, softball throw, and 3,000m steeplechase will take place. Koblerville, Mt. Carmel, San Antonio, San Vicente, WSR, and SCS will be the first schools to vie in the trials on April 21.

On April 22, Dandan, Seventh Day Adventist, Tanapag, CCA, Kagman, and GTC will compete for the day while Garapan, Oleai, GCA, WPS, and SIS are scheduled on April 23.

The preliminaries for the junior high and high schools will be held on April 17 and 24 where Hopwood Junior High School, GCA, WPS, CCA, SIS, Chacha Oceanview Junior High School, and SCS will

compete in the junior high division.

The high schools of Marianas, Saipan Southern, Kagman, GCA, MBA, and SIS will be the other competing schools in the higher division.

They will compete in the 100m, 200m, 1,500m runs, discus throw, shot put, long jump, and 4x100m relay on April 17 while the following week, April 24, competitions in 400m and 800m runs, high jump, javelin throw, 4x400m relay, and 3,000m steeplechase will be held.

Students who failed in the qualifiers can still earn slots in the finals of the McDonald's All-Schools in the CNMI National Championships on May 5. The McDonald's All-Schools Championships is on May 10.



## OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN

Coldeen is a longtime sports journalist in the CNMI and is the news and sports director of the Flame Tree Network.



## Hardball this week

Now the season begins. That Japan excursion was just an appetizer to the main dish, a diversion if you will, from the real opening which is all across America where Opening Day is a beloved annual event. Early observations from the first week:

Just as we can get excited by the games, along comes Jose Canseco who plays his own game. After seeing him last week on Fox & Friends, I am convinced that he is on a mission to do to MLB what MLB did to him which is not only destroy reputation but inflict total humiliation, that and to make as much money as possible. He's a mean guy out to hurt people.

Detroit has the most powerful opening day lineup of any team since, well, last year's New York Yankees but somebody forgot to tell Kansas City Royals pitchers who swept them in Comerica Park to open the season, allowing only five runs in three games. The Tigers will try to become the first MLB team in history to lose the first four games at home and make it to the World Series.

Johann Santana makes the Mets the favorites in the NL East.

Feel Real Good Story: Rico Washington labors eleven years in the minor leagues before making the roster as the 25th man due to an injured player and then gets a base hit in his second at bat for the Cardinals.

If they made a television show about Kerry Wood, it would be named Bewitched.

Joe Torre looks fantastic in Dodger Blue.

The San Francisco Giants have the worst batting lineup I can remember, worse than the Royals or Devil Rays ever used to be. When Bengie Molina is your clean-up batter, you are in trouble. Shame too, because they have a decent pitching staff. And they saved a ton of money not signing Bonds.

In the NL Central, the Cubs have the best team on paper but the Brewers play like winners. Like Colorado in 2007, I wouldn't be surprised if the Brew Crew surprise all this season but only if they get a reliable closer. Eric Gagne doesn't seem as good as when he was on the juice. No wonder he seemed superhuman only a few seasons ago. Red Sox fans, relieved to finally dump him, laughed when he went to Bratwurst City.

A-Rod makes more than the whole Marlins team. So what? He's better than the whole Marlins team.

Boston is primed for a repeat, loaded everywhere with the perfect blend of offense and defense, power and speed, veterans and youth, lefties and righties, etc, which makes them the team to beat. Cleveland is a popular alternative.

The Yankees biggest off-season need was pitching, and yet inexplicably, they didn't go out and get it. Honestly, who expects Mike Mussina to dominate? Now that I think about it, I'm surprised they didn't go after Randy Johnson and Roger Clemens (insert laughter). No, they've decided to go with young home grown arms. If Hughes comes through and Joba gets the ball every five days, then they can challenge the champs. The offense is fine, at least until October.

The T. Bay Rays will score some runs.

Ahh, can't wait for week two. Nope, not week three. Those games in Japan didn't count as opening week. Last week was. I could feel it.